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Thief will cool his buns in jail

SENTENCE A Massachusetts man who stole a hotdog from another man sitting under a tree in a park has been sentenced to 18 months in prison.

Antonio Judd pleaded guilty this week in Worcester Central District Court to charges including larceny from a person, the Telegram&Gazette newspaper reported.

Police say Judd grabbed the hotdog after flashing what appeared to be a gun. Police reports say Judd then began to devour the hotdog, spilling mustard all over his shirt.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
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Comment pg 14

University cracks down on dorm sex

NHL Preview pg 17

No excuses for Toskala

On the web
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Pink **Getting the party started**

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pink performs last night at the Air Canada Centre during her Funhouse Tour. Review, page 36.

Balsillie shut out

Bankruptcy judge rejects both bids for NHL Coyotes

Jim Balsillie might finally be giving up on his dream to own an NHL team.

The Canadian billionaire's dogged pursuit of the Phoenix Coyotes appeared to end yesterday with a ruling in U.S. bankruptcy court.

Even though judge Redfield T. Baum rejected bids from both the BlackBerry boss and the NHL, he suggested the league's offer could still be amended and essentially closed the door on Balsillie.

That brought an end to a five-month process that saw the Canadian billionaire spend an untold amount of money on legal fees and an aggressive public relations campaign. He launched a website, took out advertising and even brought on sponsors in support of his bid to move the Coyotes north from the desert.

None of it was enough to sway the court.

"All I wanted was a fair chance to bring a seventh NHL team to Canada ... (and) I believe I got that chance."
Jim Balsillie

"All I wanted was a fair chance to bring a seventh NHL team to Canada ... (and) I believe I got that chance," Balsillie said in a statement. "I respect the court's decision, and I will not be putting forward an appeal."

Yesterday's court ruling does not close the book on the Coyotes' ownership limbo. But in the end, the NHL got what it wanted all along — the ability to control the sale process for the money-losing franchise.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Youth aren't saving for a rainy day, study reveals

Young Canadians are saving less than their parents and grandparents did at the same age, with young men being the worst at sticking to a budget, according to the results of a new survey.

The TD Canada Trust study suggests 80 per cent of Canadians found saving money "too hard" and young people between the ages of 18 and 34 were more interested in saving for a house than for retirement.

Among survey responses, 19 per cent of 18- to 34-year-olds said they were saving 10 to 25 per cent of their total monthly income. That compared to 29 per cent of people over age 55 who said they saved that amount when they were younger.

Young adults blamed their lack of savings on not making enough money, while people 55 and older said the cost of living prevented them from saving more when they were young.

TD's Carrie Russell said the results were disappointing and prove that saving money is not something that comes naturally.

Women were also better at sticking to a budget, the survey said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Local

Man sentenced in cockfighting ring case

An East Gwillimbury man will spend six months under house arrest for involvement in a cockfighting ring. Danilo Patawaran pleaded guilty on Monday to keeping a betting house, injuring and endangering other animals, and causing unnecessary suffering. The 52-year-old was one of 70 people arrested when an investigation by the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals led York Region Police to discover cockfights being held at a home on Highway 48 in East Gwillimbury. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Review

Metro takes a look at the new film Whip It, starring Ellen Page and Drew Barrymore.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs Hollywood Rants on the opening of Zombieland and the rise of zombie culture

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On the road? Phones off

Provincial ban looms on use of electronic devices while driving

Ontario's ban on the use of cellphones, BlackBerrys and other hand-held electronic devices by drivers will take effect Oct. 26.

Motorists can expect a three-month education period when the ban first comes into effect, which means police will show some leniency.

But police will begin issuing tickets next Feb. 1.

Ontario drivers could be fined up to $500 if they're caught using their hand-held cellphones or BlackBerrys to talk, email or send text messages while behind the wheel.

The government has said hands-free devices aren't covered by the legislation, but they are not recommended for use while driving.

Drivers are also banned from using portable video games and DVD players but they are allowed to use their cellphones for 9-1-1 calls.

Global positioning systems are allowed, as long as they're properly secured to the dashboard.

Not alone...

- Ontario is the fourth province to enact such a ban, following Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec and Nova Scotia. Manitoba has introduced similar legislation.

There are no demerit points attached to the Ontario law, unlike in other provinces.

However, Ontario motorists using a banned cellphone could also be charged under careless driving laws and face fines, six demerit points, a driver's licence suspension and even jail time.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Gas leak triggers huge explosion

MISSISSAUGA A gas leak erupted in a fireball that forced the evacuation of several homes and businesses in northwest Mississauga.

No one was injured in yesterday's blast, triggered after welders working on gas mains ruptured a line at an Enbridge natural gas transfer station on Winston Churchill Boulevard.

Chi Trinh, a landscaper working nearby, said the loud hissing of escaping gas sounded "like a jet plane.

"It was like being at the air show and having an F-16 or F-18 go right over your head," said Trinh, 37.

He said about five minutes after the line ruptured, the gas caught fire, sending a column of flame more than a dozen metres into the air.

"As soon as the fire exploded, everybody ran," Trinh explained.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Councillor says sorry for on-air crack

APOLOGY Call it Speaker Cornered.

Sandra Bussin has apologized for calling a local talk radio program where she defended David Miller's record as mayor and slagged John Tory as a "three-time loser" — but didn't identify herself by her last name or indicate she is a city councillor.

The episode occurred last Friday when Bussin, who is council Speaker, called CFRB's Strong Opinions show, hosted by John Tory and Tarek Fatah.

The show was on the air just after Miller made his surprise announcement that he wouldn't seek re-election next year.

Many callers were critical of the job Miller has done, "spewing poison," according to Bussin.

The Miller loyalist called Tory — who is seriously mulling a run for mayor, and Fatah, an outspoken activist — to say, among other things, that Miller is the most "brilliant" municipal politician "anywhere in the country" and complimented Miller for tackling the municipal employees' controversial sick bank during this summer's strike.

She was asked several times if she worked for the city.

Her reply: "No, I don't work for the city."

She ended the call by calling Tory a "three-time loser," a reference to his loss to Miller in the 2003 election, a provincial election and a provincial by-election. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Coun. Sandra Bussin was in hot water on accusations that she failed to identify herself while calling in to a Toronto radio station last week and singing the praises of Mayor David Miller.

DriveTest workers ask to resume services

DRIVETEST The union representing striking DriveTest workers is asking the province to allow it to resume some services for Ontario residents awaiting a driver's licence.

DriveTest workers began a strike on Aug. 21 over the key issue of job security after talks broke off with their employer, Serco DES Inc., and about 200 of them rallied at the legislature yesterday.

Wayne Fraser of United Steelworkers Local 9511 says the union is asking the province to allow it to resume written and vision testing.

He says he has asked Transportation Minister Jim Bradley to reconsider his earlier rejection of a request for a meeting to discuss a renewal of services.

The strike affects 93 full-time and part-time DriveTest sites, which grant or renew licences to novice drivers and those over 80.

The province earlier extended the expiry date of any licences that require a test for renewal. DriveTest has estimated some 4,000 people per day have not been able to obtain their driver's licence since the strike began.

The work stoppage, however, doesn't affect those who simply need to renew their licence without taking a test as they can still renew at Ontario Driver and Vehicle Licence Issuing Offices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

City council appoints new poet laureate

City council named Dionne Brand Toronto's new poet laureate yesterday. She'll be in the post for three years, receiving an annual honorarium of $10,000. Brand, who was born in Trinidad in 1953, has published nine volumes of poetry. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cancer drug cutoff blasted

Province wrong to deny funding to patients: Ombudsman

Ontario's decision to cut off funding for cancer patients who are taking a costly but potentially life-saving drug is unreasonable, wrong and "verges on cruelty," the province's ombudsman said in a new report released yesterday.

Several colorectal cancer patients were forced to pay for Avastin out of their own pockets or stop treatment after they reached an arbitrary limit set by the government, said ombudsman Andre Marin.

The government stops funding the drug after 16 two-week treatments, or about eight months, a limit that isn't supported by medical evidence, he added.

Of the seven provinces that fund Avastin, only Ontario has a hard cap on the number of publicly funded treatments, he said.

The patients who received public funding for the drug, which costs about $3,000 per treatment, faced a "hideous irony" once they finished their publicly funded treatments, Marin said.

"Thanks to the drugs that the government paid for, they were lucky enough to beat the odds and survive past 16 cycles with no cancer growth," he said. "Their government rewarded them by saying, 'Sorry, we're cutting you off.' If you want to keep taking the drug, it's up to you to figure out how to pay for it."'

He's calling on the province to lift the cap and pay for treatment on a case-by-case basis for patients doing well on the drug, and compensate patients who have paid to continue with the treatment.

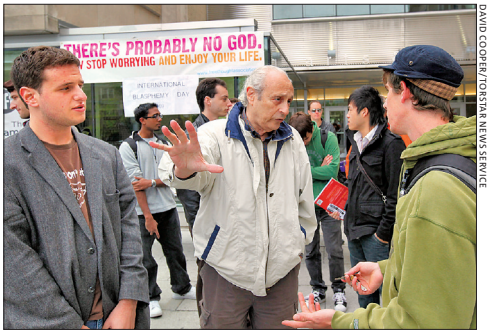
The ministry did not agree to those recommendations, but said it would work with Cancer Care Ontario toward a new compassionate review policy for cancer drugs, Marin said.

Health Minister David Caplan said he'd reconsider the funding cap on Avastin if there is new medical evidence to justify the extension, which Marin failed to provide.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ombudsman Andre Marin

THE CANADIAN PRESS



DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mani Delgtisch, centre, debates free speech yesterday during International Blasphemy Day at the University of Toronto.

Few raise their voice on day of blasphemy

FREE SPEECH Even on International Blasphemy Day, when you're encouraged to air your most damning irreverence publicly, most people were too shy to utter even a "Jeez Louise."

Yesterday was International Blasphemy Day, apparently, and Ontario's Centre for Inquiry teamed with the University of Toronto Secular Alliance to present a "Blasphemy Challenge" with an open blaspheming forum and "Speaker's Corner" from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Sidney Smith patio on the university's campus.

Organizers invited people "to speak their mind on issues related to religion, free speech, censorship, secularism," but few took the challenge.

There were a few scattered shouting matches. People read passages from the Bible and laughed mockingly. Fingers were pointed and voices raised. But all in all, it was a rather tame affair.

Blasphemous libel is still an indictable offence in Canada, according to the Criminal Code.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

HUMANE SOCIETY Both critics and supporters of the Toronto Humane Society left its shelter shaking their heads yesterday following a raucous, often disorderly three-hour annual general meeting in which detractors of president Tim Trow bombarded him with questions. The board of directors election proceeded as expected: Six current directors were re-elected, while outsider Linda MacKinnon, co-founder of the Association for the Reform of the Toronto Humane Society, was defeated. Critics, however, demanded Trow account for what they allege is his meddling in animal-care decisions, litigiousness and financial mismanagement. Trow rejected their allegations as baseless. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Man charged in stabbing incident

Durham police have laid charges after a stabbing in Oshawa sent a man to hospital with serious injuries. The stabbing happened just before 5 p.m. last Saturday when a man tried to help another man who was engaged in an altercation on Rossland Road E. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

No HST on mutual funds?

The mutual fund industry is in talks with the Ontario government about a possible exemption to the harmonized tax, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

He said there's no agreement right now, but Finance Minister Dwight Duncan is looking at "modest changes" to the plan.

"We have conversations with a number of people who are expressing concerns about the impact on their industry in particular, and we want to lend some finality to that sooner rather than later," McGuinty said.

"There's some modest, modest conversations continuing within the Ministry of Finance to make sure that we get this right," McGuinty added later.

Dwight Duncan

But "by and large," he said the policy is set.

Ontario plans to merge its sales taxes with the federal GST next July, meaning Ontario residents will pay a combined tax of 13 per cent. The move would hike the cost of many items currently exempt from the provincial levy.

Currently, there is no provincial tax on mutual funds and the industry says the plan will siphon money out of people's retirement nest eggs.

McGuinty wouldn't say whether he was sympathetic to the industry's complaints about merging the two taxes.

Still, his comments appear to put him at odds with Duncan, who had reportedly taken a hard line against the mutual fund industry's complaints about the HST.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says taxpayers should be incensed that the governing Liberals are bowing to big business instead of trying to find more exemptions to ordinary families for everyday items like home heating oil.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds planning to appeal terrorism case sentence

LAW Giving a convicted terrorist a 14-year prison term with seven years credit for time already served does not reflect the seriousness of the crime, the federal government said yesterday in announcing it plans to appeal the sentence.

Saad Khalid, one of the members of the so-called Toronto 18, pleaded guilty to participating in a terror plot and was sentenced in early September.

Khalid was given seven years credit for the more than three years he had spent in custody since June 2006, leaving him to serve seven more years in prison. His lawyer said Khalid could apply for parole after less than 2½ years.

Ontario Superior Court Justice Bruce Durno erred by failing to order Khalid serve at least half of his sentence before being released on parole, the government said in court documents listing its grounds of appeal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cookies! Harlequin Heroes promote new flavour

ANDREW WILLIAMSON/FOR METRO TORONTO

Nicole Hetu, Khar Monsanto, and Sunita Jugdeo stop to pose with Harlequin Heroes at Yonge-Dundas square yesterday. Harlequin Enterprises, a leading publisher of woman's fiction, teamed up with Peek Freans to promote their new cookie flavour, Vanilla Bean Latte.

News in brief

LAYOFFS Viceroy Homes in Port Hope, Ont., says it plans to close its plant in the community east of Toronto, likely on Dec. 1. The builder and designer of custom-made homes blames a slumping housing market and dismal sales for the decision. Canadian Auto Workers Union spokesman Chuck New says the company has given 120 unionized employees eight weeks notice. **GREEN BIN** Toronto has fired one of its Green Bin organics processors after a Toronto Star investigation revealed that the company was taking some of its unfinished compost to a Michigan landfill.

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McGill to honour Clinton with degree

Former U.S. president Bill Clinton is headed to Montreal to receive an honorary university doctorate. Clinton will receive the award from McGill University at a private ceremony Oct. 16. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Mandatory grace period delayed

The federal government is pushing back the start date for a key element of credit card reform meant to increase transparency for card users. The Finance Department has published new rules that come into effect in the new year, but says it won't implement a mandatory 21-day interest-free grace period until next September. The announcement posted on the department website says that starting Jan. 1, credit card issuers must provide a "summary box" on application forms detailing interest rates and fees. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Zero growth in economy

July goose egg throws projections of recovery in doubt

The Canadian economic recovery ran into a wall in July, stunning expectations and creating new doubts about just how long it will take for production and jobs to rebound to pre-recession levels.

Following a 0.1 per cent increase in economic growth in June that signalled the end of the recession, economists had been expecting a strong rebound in July of anywhere from 0.5 to 0.7 per cent.

And many of the early indicators were pointing in that direction, particularly the outsized 5.5 per cent pop in manufacturing sales the agency has previously reported.

Instead, the economy laid a goose egg — zero growth.

"This is a shocker. We're not talking about a shot across the bow of the optimists, this is more like a torpedo through the hull," said economist Douglas Porter of BMO Capital Markets.

"This is a shocker. We're not talking about a shot across the bow of the optimists, this is more like a torpedo through the hull." Douglas Porter, BMO Capital Markets

With almost daily threats to his government, Prime Minister Stephen Harper tried to make the best of the situation, insisting Canada is outperforming the United States.

However, that was a tougher argument yesterday as the the U.S. revised upwards its second-quarter performance to a 0.7 per cent contraction, compared with Canada's minus 3.4 per cent.

Analysts were divided on the meaning of the July surprise.

One scenario now clearly more in play is that Canada will undergo a prolonged flat period, or one of stops and starts — often referred to as an L-shaped recovery — that would be marred by little job creation.

But Merrill Lynch chief economist Sheryl King said she believes August and September will show better results and remained optimistic about 2010.

In part, she said, the July number was hammered by temporary factors such the municipal strike in Toronto and work stoppages in the mining sector.

But CIBC chief economist Avery Shenfeld said it will cause economists to downgrade their forecasts for the second half of 2009 and possibly 2010. He said it may also cause the Bank of Canada to keep its policy interest rate at its current record low rate throughout next year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Dalai Lama gets help donning a white cowboy hat presented to him yesterday by Mayor David Bronconnier in Calgary. The city presents the hats to honoured guests as a symbol of respect.

Western welcome for Dalai Lama in Calgary

CONFERENCE The Dalai Lama has been welcomed to Calgary with a time-honoured Western tradition — the placing of a white cowboy hat on his head by the city's mayor.

The Tibetan spiritual leader laughed yesterday as he tried to figure out which way the hat fit on his head. He then posed for pictures wearing his traditional scarlet and gold robes, with the white hat perched atop his head and one furry mitten on his hand.

He made a fist with the mitten, one of a number of small gifts from First Nations groups, then chuckled, turning to shake Mayor Dave Bronconnier's hand before being presented with a white scarf — a symbolic Tibetan greeting.

The Dalai Lama is in the city for the first time in three decades to take part in a conference that was organized by the University of Calgary.

Thousands of people stretched in long lines outside Calgary's Pengrowth Saddledome arena waiting to pass the strict security checks for entry to see him speak. More than 15,000 tickets were sold for the address.

Former South African president and Nobel laureate F.W. de Klerk also spoke at the conference, which is aimed at getting students to think about how they can help those in their community. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

PROTEST A Suncor oilsands upgrader kept working yesterday despite attempts to block its supply of bitumen by an international group of Greenpeace activists, who want the oilsands shut down. Hours after an emailing campaign informed reporters that activists had climbed three-storey bridges to block the flow of bitumen into the upgrader, the story was playing on Canadian newspaper websites. It was also featured around the world on sites like the London Stock Exchange and the Wall Street Journal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds on hook for swine flu vaccine lawsuits

Flu Outbreak

DAMAGES Canadians who suffer harmful side-effects from the new swine flu shot can take the vaccine maker to court — but the federal government would be on the hook for any damages.

The chief public health officer, Dr. David Butler-Jones, said yesterday that Canada has agreed to shield drug companies from lawsuits over the H1N1 pandemic vaccine.

"Having indemnification for a vaccine is important." Dr. David Butler-Jones

That means the federal government, not the vaccine manufacturers, would have to pay any damages awarded in court. That doesn't apply to cases of malpractice.

"That's quite normal," Butler-Jones said.

"We're not obviously anticipating problems with it, but having indemnification for a vaccine is important.

"If someone does malpractice — I mean basically injects somebody the wrong way in the wrong place, or causes harm because of their practice — that is a different issue and there are other mechanisms for that."

Quebec is the only province with a no-fault compensation plan for harmful side-effects resulting from immunizations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANDREW VAUGHAN / THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cpl. Matthew Wilcox of Glace Bay, N.S., is escorted from his court martial during a break in proceedings in Sydney, N.S. yesterday.

Soldier given 4 years in jail

A Canadian soldier who shot and killed his tent-mate in Afghanistan in 2007 was sentenced yesterday to four years in prison and dismissed from the military.

Cpl. Matthew Wilcox, a 24-year-old soldier from Glace Bay, N.S., was convicted in July of criminal negligence causing death and neglect of duty in the shooting of Cpl. Kevin Megeney.

Wilcox stood as military judge Cmdr. Peter Lamont read him his sentence. Lamont, in explaining his decision, said the conduct of the offender was part of a pattern of negligence that began with his failure to unload his firearm.

"He violated (the) trust of his colleagues," Lamont said yesterday. "He was highly trained ... and in this period he wilfully ignored instructions."

Lamont added that he was obliged to give Wilcox the minimum sentence in the civilian Criminal Code of four years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

System to fast-track info complaints actually slowed them down: Audit

REVIEW A vaunted new program to fast-track public complaints about how the federal government responds to requests for information actually made things worse, says a newly released audit.

The information commissioner of Canada announced in 2008 he was creating a special unit to deal with the rising flood of complaints that pour into the office each year.

But an external audit has found the team was about 25 per cent slower to deal with complaints than the year before. The audit found the fast-track unit needed an average of four months even to assign a case to an investigator, partly because the file was first shuffled among six different staff members.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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N.B. residents affected by Danny won't receive disaster aid

Bad news for New Brunswickers still dealing with damage caused by flooding during post-tropical storm Danny. The province has decided the damage doesn't meet the criteria of the disaster financial assistance program. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'No more stolen sisters'

Ottawa has failed missing Native women: Amnesty International

The federal government's effort to stop violence against native women represents "a shocking failure" to stem an epidemic of murder and disappearance, says Amnesty International.

Ottawa must get to the heart of why more than 520 Native women have vanished or been killed over the last four decades, the watchdog said yesterday in a new report, No More Stolen Sisters.

"Words of concern have not been met with real action," said secretary general Alex Neve.

Amnesty's damning report is just the latest blunt call for Ottawa to step up.

The number of yearly vigils demanding action is soaring with 70 rallies planned in 68 cities next month, says the Native Women's Association of Canada. Opposition Liberals are pressing for a national investigation. And the UN has specifically asked Ottawa to look into why Aboriginal women are targeted. THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

- At least 520 Aboriginal women have been killed or have vanished since 1970.
- 348 women were murdered and almost one-quarter are still missing. No one had been charged in 150 confirmed homicides.

Quebec Tories abandon changes to cigarillo bill

SMOKING Canada's rookie health minister appears to have won a political tug-of-war with her Quebec colleagues over contentious changes to flavoured-tobacco controls.

Leona Aglukkaq

The Quebec wing of the Conservative caucus had pulled for amendments that would ban some flavours and additives in cigars and cigarettes but not others.

But Leona Aglukkaq tugged back harder.

"I met with the Quebec caucus and they're in support of the legislation as is," she said yesterday.

Bill C-32, also known as the Cracking Down on Tobacco Marketing Aimed at Youth Act, would ban all flavours and additives in tobacco products except for menthol.

The government says tobacco companies add fruit flavours and vitamins, sugar and other additives that taste like candy to little cigars — called cigarillos — to mask the tobacco's harshness to appeal to kids. But Tories from Quebec pushed for changes after Rothmans warned it might have to rethink plans to expand its Quebec City plant — jeopardizing some 330 jobs — if the legislation passed without amendments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cirque founder Laliberte officially first clown in space

KAZAKHSTAN Canada's first space tourist may have already been squeezed out of $35 million to spend 12 days in orbit. But some folks are hoping to make Guy Laliberte bleed a little more.

The Cirque du soleil founder, who blasted off early yesterday aboard a Russian spacecraft, is expected to take part in some scientific experiments while visiting the International Space Station, including drawing blood.

According to the Canadian Space Agency, Canadian astronaut Bob Thirsk is waiting to greet him at the station. Laliberte rocketed his way into becoming Canada's first space tourist from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

He gave the cabin's in-flight camera a double thumbs up just minutes into the flight and told ground control he felt "super." Before the rocket lifted off, the Quebec tycoon said he was determined to play the clown as much as possible while in zero gravity. He's actually brought along a few red noses to share with his astronaut friends. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MIKHAIL METZEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cirque du soleil founder Guy Laliberte, Canada's first space tourist, jokes yesterday as he wears a clown nose prior to launch of the 21st mission to the International Space Station.

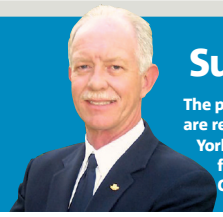
News in brief

PRISONER ABUSE A former Canadian diplomat and key witness at an inquiry into the treatment of Afghan war prisoners has been barred from testifying, The Canadian Press has learned. Richard Colvin has intimate knowledge of how Taliban prisoners were treated and what the army may have known about alleged torture in Kandahar. Federal lawyers have invoked a national security clause in the Canada Evidence Act to prevent Colvin from giving evidence before a military watchdog agency.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$74M going to help farmers in Zimbabwe
The World Bank is donating $74 million to help poor farmers in Zimbabwe. David Rohrbach, a senior agricultural economist for the bank, says the money will benefit 700,000 families, helping to buy seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural equipment for the coming harvest. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World



Sully back in the pilot's seat

The pilots who landed a US Airways jet safely in the Hudson River are reuniting in a cockpit for the first time for a flight out of New York. Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, left, and 1st Officer Jeffrey Skiles are slated to fly from LaGuardia Airport to Charlotte, N.C. today. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Huge quake leaves 200 dead in Sumatra

Comes just a day after tsunami hit Samoa

A powerful earthquake rocked western Indonesia yesterday, trapping thousands under collapsed buildings — including two hospitals — and triggering landslides. At least 200 people were killed on Sumatra island and the death toll was expected to climb.

The magnitude 7.6 quake struck at 5:15 p.m. local time, just off the coast of Padang city, the U.S. Geological Survey said. It was along the same fault line that spawned the massive 2004 Asian tsunami that killed more than 230,000 people in a dozen countries.

A disaster management official says 200 deaths were counted in Padang, a regional capital of 900,000 people, where 500 buildings collapsed. Casualties are being talied in other areas of West Sumatra.

Yesterday's quake came a day after a quake with a magnitude of between 8.0 and 8.3 in the South Pacific hurled a massive tsunami at the shores of Samoa and American Samoa leaving at least 119 dead.

Survivors fled to higher ground but were then engulfed by four tsunami waves 15 to 20 feet high that reached up to 1.5 kilometres inland.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No Canadians

- There have been no reports so far of Canadian casualties or fatalities as a result of the deadly tsunami that swept through the Pacific island nation of Samoa, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

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Serbia White lions born in zoo

SRDJAN ILIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zookeeper Nadja Radovic holds two 12-day-old white lion cubs in Belgrade Zoo, Serbia, yesterday. The two white lion cubs are an extremely rare subspecies of the African lion.

Cleric blasts coed Saudi university

EDUCATION A prominent Muslim cleric has criticized a new Saudi university launched by King Abdullah for allowing men and women to take classes together.

Sheik Saad Bin Naser al-Sheshri was quoted yesterday in the Al-Watan daily as demanding an end to coed classes at the newly opened King Abdullah Science and Technology University. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

IVORY Authorities in Ethiopia and Kenya have seized more than 1,200 kilograms of blood-stained ivory from about 100 illegally killed elephants.

INTERPOL Venezuela's top prosecutor is asking Interpol to capture former president Carlos Andres Perez for violence committed during street protests two decades ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Kremlin wants co-operation with NATO
The Kremlin says it's ready to fully restore co-operation with NATO, which was suspended in the aftermath of Russia's war with Georgia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran diplomat to visit Washington

POLITICS Iran's foreign minister is making a rare appearance in Washington after being granted a visa by the State Department to visit the Pakistani embassy, which represents Iranian interests with the U.S. government.

Iran and the U.S. have not had formal diplomatic relations since 1980.

The visit comes just a day in advance of an important meeting in Geneva between Iran and six world powers seeking to restrict Iran's nuclear program.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

PERU A court has sentenced Alberto Fujimori to six years in prison after the jailed former president pleaded guilty to authorizing wiretaps and bribes to politicians, journalists and businessmen. The 71-year-old politician already faces the prospect of spending the rest of his life in prison after a special Supreme Court panel sentenced him to 25 years for crimes against humanity for authorizing military death squads.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dollar dispute for soldiers

At a time when every experienced Afghan soldier on the ground in Kandahar is worth his weight in gold, many of them are now leaving in droves over something as simple as a pay dispute.

There are about 2,600 Afghan soldiers at work in Kandahar province, braving daily skirmishes with the Taliban and the ever-present dangers of improvised explosive devices and suicide bombers — many of them having left friends and families behind in northern Afghanistan.

Now, because the Afghan government has done away with danger pay for soldiers patrolling the perilous south, many troops are migrating north, to the consternation of Canada's Operational Mentor Liason Team, which co-ordinates their training.

"Part of the problem is they used to get an incentive for working here in the south, and they've blanketed the incentive," OMLT commanding officer Col. Gregory Burt said in an interview with The Canadian Press.

"In other words, a guy doing guard duty in Kabul gets the same incentive as the guy getting shot at every day down here in the south."

There are roughly 80,000 Afghans serving in the Afghan National Army; the average Afghan soldier makes about $200 US per month — a significant improvement over pay rates just a few years ago. Those soldiers deployed in Kandahar used to get an undisclosed premium — "enough to make a difference," Burt said — to create an incentive for the tougher assignment.

Now, all the soldiers receive the same salary.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BILL GRAVELAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Canadian soldier, left, patrols with an Afghan National Army soldier in this 2008 photo in Lakokhel, Afghanistan. Many Afghan national soldiers in Kandahar are leaving over pay disputes.

UN firing in Afghanistan

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon fired the top American official at the UN mission in Afghanistan yesterday after a widely publicized dispute with his boss over how to deal with widespread fraud charges in the country's presidential election.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamas, Israel partake in prisoner exchange

PROGRESS In a surprise deal announced yesterday, Hamas will give Israel a videotape providing a first glimpse of a captured Israeli soldier to prove he is alive in return for the release of 20 Palestinian women held in Israeli prisons.

It marked the first tangible sign of progress in more than three years of talks aimed at a larger prisoner exchange, and it could lead to an end to a crippling blockade of the impoverished, war-torn Gaza Strip, which is ruled by militant Islamic Hamas.

Israel said the video-for-prisoners exchange would take place tomorrow.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Captive

- Gilad Schalit, the Israeli soldier being held by Hamas-linked militants, was captured in June 2006.

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Terror suspect's home in U.S. raided

U.S. investigators seized counterterrorism literature, ammunition and electronics from the North Carolina home of terrorism suspect Anes Subasic. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

world 13

New typhoon fears

Death toll continues to rise from Ketsana

A new typhoon gathered strength early today off the Philippines while nearly 700,000 people still sought help in badly stretched relief centres from massive flooding caused by Ketsana, one of the region's most destructive storms in years.

Ketsana prompted the worst flooding in the northern Philippines in 40 years when it struck Saturday, and then continued its deadly path across Southeast Asia, blowing down wooden villages in Cambodia and crushing Vietnamese houses under mudslides Tuesday.

The death toll climbed to 362, and was still rising.

BULLIT MARQUEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Residents wade through floodwaters yesterday with their belongings in San Pedro, near Manila, in the Philippines.

The immediate threat from Ketsana eased as it was downgraded to a tropical depression as it crossed into a fourth nation, Laos. But its powerful winds and pummelling rain left a snaking trail of destruction.

Meanwhile, another typhoon gained strength as it moved toward the hard-hit northern Philippines. Typhoon Parma was 650 kilometres off the country's eastern coast today, but was already bringing rain to eastern provinces.

Packing winds of 150 kilometres per hour with gusts of up to 185 km/h, Parma was expected to hit land Saturday in the northeastern Philippines, weather forecaster Rommel Yutoc said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Report on Bosnia:

- Metro takes an exclusive look at an Amnesty International report detailing the failure of Bosnian governments to guarantee the rights of thousands of women and girls raped during the 1992-95 war.

Go to metronews.ca/world

UN targets rape in war zones

RESOLUTION The UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution condemning sexual violence in war zones, with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton presiding and appealing for global action to end the scourge.

The U.S.-sponsored measure, passed by a 15-0 vote yesterday, creates a special United Nations envoy to co-ordinate efforts to combat the use of rape as a weapon of war and directs UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to dispatch a team of experts to advise governments on how best to prosecute offenders. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Beware campus sex cops

Relating

You can't legislate good manners, consideration or discretion, but the futile attempts never end.

Among the latest is a directive to students in residence at Tufts University in Michigan: "You may not engage in sexual activity while your roommate is present in the room. Any sexual activity within your assigned room should not ever deprive your roommate(s) of privacy, study, or sleep time."

Granted, subjecting your roommate to such sights and sounds is the height of bad form, but is it really necessary to alert the authorities? How about a little effort to be quiet on this side of the room, an indulgent blind eye on that side?

The new policy replaces sensible solutions like "sexile," in which one asks one's roommate to amscray in order that boot-knocking may proceed in peace, or the time-honoured "Do Not Disturb" tie on the doorknob.

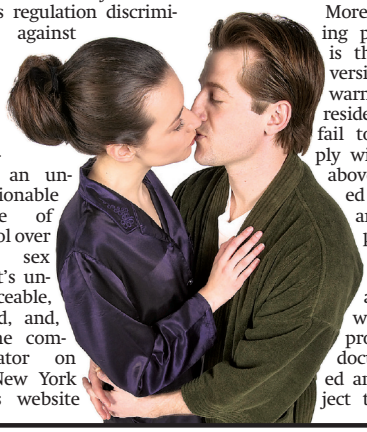
That is what civilized roommates do for one another. They learn to live together and it can be part of their education. Or you can make more rules and push students around, as Tufts has decided in its transformation into Nanny State U.

This regulation discriminates against the lucky and gives one's roommate an unconscionable degree of control over one's sex life. It's unenforceable, absurd, and, as one commentator on the New York Times website asked, "What if you want to have sex with your roommate?"

On the web

- For more views on relating, go to Love Bytes at metronews.ca/blogs

What if the coast is clear, and you begin your lawfully constituted activities, only to have *Buzzkillus interruptus* come home mid-shag. Are you required to stop or is the roomie obligated to leave?



More worrying perhaps is the university's warning: "If residents fail to comply with the above stated policy and expectations, their actions will be properly documented and subject to residential judicial consequences."

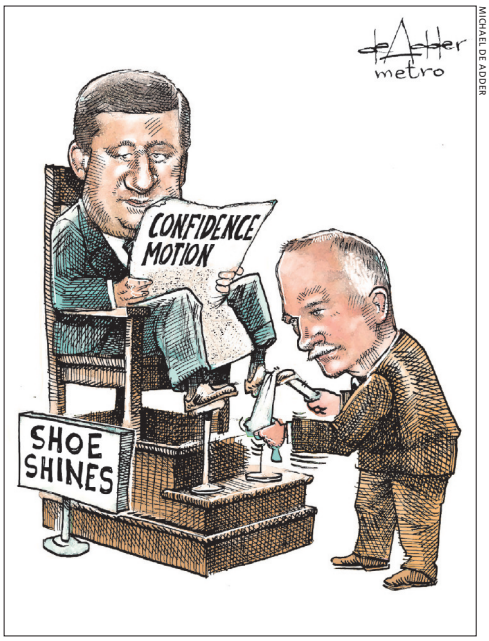
How does one "properly document" such actions? Will a simple written description of observed activities suffice, or should the roommate get photographic or video evidence? And who's the pervert now?

Why the university felt it necessary to single out sex also puzzles. Will further rules be drafted to make sure students are eating balanced meals, doing their homework and calling their moms weekly? They are after all, adults, and should be left to do their adult thing, as often as the opportunity arises.

Tufts claims the new rules were brought in after a "significant number" of complaints about randy roommates. How many? About 12, it turns out. Tufts has about 8,500 students, and the dirty dozen have now brought collective punishment on them all.

Can't we all just get along *and* laid?

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on relationships for Metro every two weeks.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Worth mentioning

Sweet tooth as kids may lead to prison: Report

Willy Wonka would be horrified. Children who eat too much candy may be more likely to be arrested for violent behaviour as adults, new research suggests.

British experts studied more than 17,000 children born in 1970 for about four decades. Of the children who ate candies or chocolates daily at age 10, 69 per cent were later arrested for a violent offence by the age of 34. Of those who didn't have any violent clashes, 42 per cent ate sweets daily.

The study was published in the October issue of the British Journal of Psychiatry. It was paid for by Britain's Economic and Social Research Council.

The researchers said the results were interesting, but more studies were needed to confirm the link. "It's not that the sweets themselves are bad, it's more about interpreting how kids make decisions," said Simon Moore of the University of Cardiff, one of the paper's authors.

Moore said parents who consistently bribe their children into good behaviour with candies and chocolates could be doing harm. That might prevent kids from learning how to defer gratification, leading to impulsive behaviour and violence. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Views

Polanski and polygamy: What the news tells us

FourthWave

What an instructive week in the news — two things are clear from reading the papers: If you're a Hollywood célébre who raped a child 30 years ago, all is forgiven; and if you wed 25 women and say your religion commands it, no lawyer or judge in Canada will touch you.

As Hollywoodites rush to defend director Roman Polanski, who is facing extradition to the U.S. over a 1977 rape of a 13-year-old girl, some egregious examples of how our society views rape have come to the surface.

Polanski's sister-in-law Debra Tate called it a "consensual matter," while Tom O'Neill — who has much to gain from the debacle as senior editor of In Touch Weekly — said, "It's mind-boggling why they're still pursuing this ... The prosecutors in Los Angeles won't let go these many years later."

Oh, those dogged lawyers. Never mind that celebrities seem to be treated with a separate law book, or that Polanski pleaded guilty in the first place. The statute of limitations does not run out on punishing someone for forcing a child to have sex, and though Polanski may have settled with his victim Samantha Gailey in a lawsuit, he has not paid his dues to society.

Closer to home, B.C. courts threw out polygamy charges against fundamentalist Mormon leaders Winston Blackmore and James Oler on grounds that former B.C. attorney general Wally Oppal had no jurisdiction to "shop around" for a prosecutor willing to take on the case.

From women who have left these "plural" marriages, we've learned about child brides married to men three times their age, women denied education and careers and threatened with death for wanting out. Others are trafficked across the U.S.-Canada border into marriages — according to an RCMP affidavit, seven of Blackmore's alleged 25 wives are American. In short, women in polygamist communities are denied the freedom, equality and choice that ordinary women are afforded, which is why they must be protected.

This is how a misogynistic culture is fostered — when it's condoned by society and squeezed through legal loopholes. No amount of brilliance exonerates a man for raping a child, nor can religion or faulty justice morally excuse men from taking advantage of vulnerable women.

Canice Leung is a former editor of Ryerson University feminist magazine McClung's, copy editor at Metro, ardent feminist and loudmouth.

We Know What You're Thinking

38% The number of Canadians who say it is the woman who is the ruler of the household, not the man.

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Australia, China clear Pfizer's buyout of rival Wyeth
New York-based drug developer Pfizer Inc. said yesterday it has received Australian approval for its $68-billion buyout of rival Wyeth, a week after getting Chinese regulatory approval. The buyout still needs regulatory approval in the U.S. and Canada. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Power plant to cost $1.2B

TransCanada Corp. has won a contract to build a $1.2-billion natural gas-fired power plant in Oakville, as the Calgary-based company continues to add to its presence in Ontario's power market.

The Ontario Power Authority awarded TransCanada a 20-year contract to build, own and operate the 900-megawatt plant, which is scheduled to start producing power by the end of 2013.

TransCanada — Canada's largest shipper of natural gas from Western Canada to markets in the East and U.S. Midwest states — estimates that construction of the plant will create 600 jobs over about 28 months. The plant itself will create about 25 permanent jobs.

The Oakville plant would be TransCanada's third power generation project in the Toronto area. Its 550-megawatt natural-gas-fired Portlands Energy Centre in downtown Toronto began producing electricity in 2008 and a 683-megawatt gas-fired plant in Halton Hills is scheduled to come into service next summer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca

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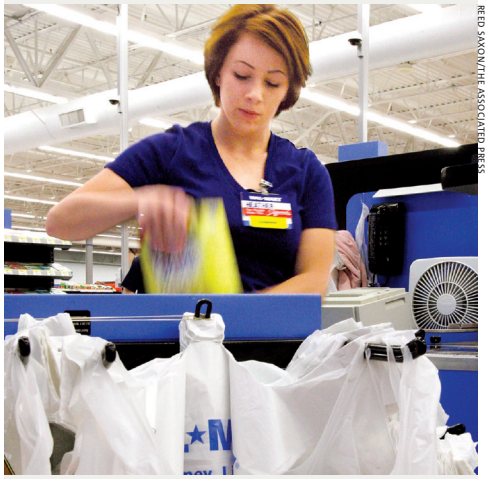
Wal-Mart Toying with bargains



REED SAXON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A cashier bags purchases at a Wal-Mart store near Los Angeles. The world's largest retailer plans to offer more than 100 toys at $10 US to attract recession-weary shoppers during the key holiday season. The toys include Barbie Cut and Style Rapunzel, Transformers Revenge of the Fallen Deluxe Action Figures, My Little Pony So Soft Newborn and several board games.

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BlackBerry for Macs launched

SMARTPHONES Research In Motion is launching a BlackBerry desktop manager for Mac computers as it tries to forge a stronger position in a consumer market dominated by Apple's iPhone.

RIM says the new software will allow Mac users to sync their contacts, calendar appointments, tasks and notes with their BlackBerry smartphones.

The move will also let Mac users sync their iTunes music collections with their BlackBerry.

The product comes as BlackBerry continues efforts to expand beyond its corporate customer base to the consumer market. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

PROPERTIES Unitholders of Toronto-based apartment owner InterRent Real Estate Investment Trust have approved a one-year property management agreement with Ottawa-based property manager CLV Group, dealing another setback to major stakeholder Northwest Value Partners Inc., which has been embroiled in a boardroom dispute over CLV's involvement with InterRent.

INTERNET The United States said it will give other governments and the private sector a greater oversight role in the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, whose decisions affect how computers relay traffic such as email and Twitter posts. But the U.S. stopped short of cutting its ties completely with ICANN. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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(1) Subject to long distance charges when outside your local calling area. (2) Includes international text messages. Excludes premium messages. (3) Unlimited local calling from 7pm to 8am, Monday through Thursday and from 7pm Friday to 8am Monday. (4) Taxes are extra. Mobile phone not included in plan. (5) No purchase necessary. Contest ends October 1, 2009. See buildabash.ca for Contest Rules.

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BUILD-A-BASH AND WIN![5] Enter PTTIUO5 at buildabash.ca for points towards a koodo-rific party.

Saturn brand no longer
General Motors Co. said yesterday it would shut down its Saturn brand after an agreement with Penske Automotive Group Inc. to acquire it fell apart. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV ads blur lines

In television's latest quest to discourage viewers from skipping ads, actors from NBC and ABC shows are appearing in character in commercials to interact with products in parallel story lines.

This new kind of commercial further blurs the line between program and advertisement and comes as traditional product placements within shows, an early response to fast-forwarding, have become common.

A series of spots that debuted this week weaves Palm Inc.'s Pre phone more deeply into the story line of two prime-time dramas.

In a "mini-mystery" called Another Desperate Housewife, an extra from ABC's Desperate Housewives suspects her husband is cheating after checking his Pre. A voice-over refers to Sprint's wireless data network, as the phone is offered exclusively through Sprint Nextel Corp. in the U.S.: "This is suspicion, on The Now Network."

Along its eight-week run, a few dramatic twists and turns will be revealed — over the phone, of course.

Sprint also has a Heroes series of dramatized ads on NBC that follows new character Lydia, who is able to identify faces in the shape-shifting tattoos on her body. She uses the Pre to find her daughter, who also has a heroic power.

"It's definitely groundbreaking for ABC and NBC," said Denise Ocasio, managing partner of MindShare, the marketing firm that helped Sprint create the spots.

"It's not a commercial. It looks and feels and has all the drama and excitement of the show. It is an entertainment experience. It's just brought to you by Sprint."

But not everyone is pleased.

Peter Horton, executive producer of the short-lived NBC drama The Philanthropist, said he would hesitate to have another such ad on one of his shows.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

This image provided by Sprint Nextel Corp. shows Heroes actors Dawn Olivieri and Ray Park in a dramatized ad for Sprint Nextel Corp. that features the Pre phone made by Palm Inc.

U.K. company acquires Canadian wind farm developer

AIM PowerGen Corp., one of Canada's largest independent wind farm developers, is being acquired by British-based International Power PLC for $119 million in an all-cash deal, the two companies announced yesterday.

AIM PowerGen Corp. has its wind-power operations concentrated in Ontario but also has projects in Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The transaction requires shareholder approval at AIM PowerGen's current parent company, Renewable Energy Generation Ltd.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

TRADING Shares of auto parts maker Magna International Inc. fell more than 1.6 per cent in afternoon trading, with possible negative pressure coming from a report that Fiat is considering dropping a contract to build Chrysler vehicles at Magna's European plant. Fiat chief executive Sergio Marchionne said he would let the contract expire.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Rangers add Semenov
Free agent defenceman Alexei Semenov has agreed to terms with the New York Rangers. Semenov and the Rangers reached a deal yesterday, just two days before they open the NHL regular season at Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh. The 28-year-old had a goal and eight points in 47 games last season with San Jose. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL Preview

Odds-on faves

According to the Associated Press, the Pittsburgh Penguins, at odds of 5-1, are favoured to repeat as Stanley Cup champions. The Atlanta Thrashers and New York Islanders are tied at 125-1 for the worst odds. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Montreal Canadiens

LAST SEASON 41-30-11, 93 points (eighth in East, lost in first round of playoffs).
KEY ADDITIONS F Scott Gomez, F Mike Cammalleri, F Brian Gionta, D Jaroslav Spacek.
SIGNIFICANT LOSSES F Saku Koivu, F Alexei Kovalev, F Alex Tanguay, F Robert Lang, D Mathieu Schneider.
STARS D Andrei Markov, G Carey Price.
THE BUZZ Fairly or unfairly, Price is under the microscope, while the personnel in front of him has undergone more changes than any team in the NHL. The production of Gomez, Cammalleri and Gionta will be key.

Ottawa Senators

LAST SEASON 36-35-11, 83 points (11th in East, missed playoffs).
KEY ADDITIONS F Alexei Kovalev, F Jonathan Cheechoo, F Milan Michalek.
SIGNIFICANT LOSSES F Dany Heatley, F Mike Comrie.
STARS F Jason Spezza, F Daniel Alfredsson, D Filip Kuba, G Pascal Leclaire.
THE BUZZ Offence shouldn't be a problem, so Leclaire's ability to rebound from ankle surgery will partly determine the Senators' success. Cory Clouston is under the gun to perform after his much-publicized fallout with Heatley.

Calgary Flames

LAST SEASON 46-30-6, 98 points (fifth in East, lost in first round).
KEY ADDITIONS D Jay Bouwmeester.
SIGNIFICANT LOSSES F Mike Cammalleri, F Todd Bertuzzi, D Adrian Aucoin.
STARS G Miikka Kiprusoff, D Dion Phaneuf, D Robyn Regehr, F Jarome Iginla, F Olli Jokinen.
THE BUZZ Cammalleri's departure takes a bite out of the Flames' average offensive depth, but Bouwmeester strengthens an already deep blue-line corps. That, combined with Kiprusoff, should make the Flames stingier defensively.

Edmonton Oilers

LAST SEASON 38-35-9, 85 points (11th in East, missed playoffs).
KEY ADDITIONS G Nikolai Khabibulin, F Mike Comrie.
SIGNIFICANT LOSSES G Dwayne Roloson, F Ales Kotalik, F Kyle Brodziak.
STARS F Shawn Horcoff, F Ales Hemsky, D Sheldon Souray, D Lubomir Visnovsky.
THE BUZZ With only some minor off-season tinkering, the Oilers will look to new head coach Pat Quinn to get more out of the personnel in place. If Khabibulin is on his game and Hemsky emerges, the playoffs are possible.

Vancouver Canucks

LAST SEASON 45-27-10, 100 points (third in East, lost in second round of playoffs).
KEY ADDITIONS F Mikael Samuelsson, D Mathieu Schneider.
SIGNIFICANT LOSSES F Mats Sundin
STARS G Roberto Luongo, F Daniel Sedin, F Henrik Sedin, F Ryan Kesler, D Kevin Bieksa.
THE BUZZ The Canucks made their biggest off-season moves by re-signing the Sedins and Luongo, retaining the core of a 100-point team. Additions of Samuelsson and Schneider could help the Canucks take another step forward.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO CANADA

Toskala key to Leafs

Toronto's optimism for naught if goalie doesn't improve

Even Vesa Toskala agrees: No excuses.

If a theme had developed in conversations with GM Brian Burke and coach Ron Wilson during the Toronto Maple Leafs' three-day cottage-country retreat, it's that the rebuilt team won't tolerate excuses for poor play, especially from Toskala, as it heads into its season opener.

There's a buzz of optimism surrounding the Leafs. The acquisition of Phil Kessel, solid play of rookie Viktor Stalberg, the toughness of Jay Rosehill and Colton Orr adds to the sentiment the club should end its prolonged playoff drought.

But it will all go for naught if Toskala — he of the woeful goals-against average and save percentage — doesn't improve.

"I'm looking to have a good season," said Toskala. "I feel good, my body feels good. Everything feels good. No excuses. I don't see any reason why I can't play well."

Burke has done just about everything to set the table for Toskala. He complained that he was playing hurt last year. Burke ended his season and arranged surgery on his groin.

Team defence was seen to be an issue in terms of allowing too many shots. Burke signed free agents Mike Komisarek and Francois Beauchemin — both of whom were installed as alternate captains yesterday — to bolster the blue-line.

Toskala's work habits were questioned: Burke brought in goalie coach supremo Frankie Allaire.

Believing Toskala plays better if he's pushed for playing time: Burke brought in a Monster of a free agent in Jonas Gustavsson.

"At the end of the day, it's how Vesa works in practice, how he's prepared for a game, the attention to detail has to be there," said Wilson. "We don't want any excuses from anybody, most of all from our goaltender.

"All that stuff's behind him now. You just have to step on the ice, relax and do the job. We'll be better in front of Vesa, I know that for sure. With Vesa being healthy, he should have a good season."

The often-embattled Finnish goalie is the team's No. 1 starter. If he's better than last year — his critics say he can't be worse — the team has a legitimate shot at the playoffs. If not, Wilson could be quick to switch to Gustavsson.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Toronto Maple Leafs have taken a number of steps to ensure Vesa Toskala's performance improves this season over last.

Experts call for Blackhawks-Bruins Cup battle

PREDICTIONS How about a Stanley Cup parade down Robson Street? Or maybe a championship celebration on the Red Mile?

The Canadian Press' hockey writers have pulled out a crystal ball to make some predictions about the upcoming NHL season and see Vancouver and Calgary as the teams most likely to end the country's 16-year Stanley Cup drought.

Roberto Luongo continues to be the cornerstone of the Canucks and has a revamped blue-line working in front of him. In Calgary, the arrival of defenceman Jay Bouwmeester should provide a major boost to a 98-point team from a year ago.

Ultimately, though, we think the champion will again come from an American city and it should be one heck of a final between two resurgent hockey markets in Boston and Chicago.

Can you imagine the excitement surrounding an Original Six matchup?

We see a Bruins team that has skill and depth at every position coming out on top of that one. That means hulking Bruins captain Zdeno Chara will lift the Stanley Cup after first helping his team win the Presidents' Trophy with the best record in the regular season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Buffalo D gets bigger

After a stellar 2008-09 in Kelowna where he led the Rockets to the WHL championship and was named the league's playoff MVP, defenceman Tyler Myers has made the Buffalo Sabres' 23-man roster. At six-foot-eight, Myers is an inch shorter than Boston Bruins captain Zdeno Chara — the NHL's tallest player. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL Preview

NHL classics kick off new season

Joe Sakic's jersey retirement, two all-Canadian matchups kick off 2009-10 schedule

As the curtain raises on another NHL season, there could be a sight seldom seen over the past two decades.

Might stoic Joe Sakic lose his composure on opening night?

The longtime Avalanche captain will be on the ice at Pepsi Center in a suit rather than a hockey jersey as the team raises his No. 19 to the rafters tonight. One of Sakic's trademarks during a Hall of Fame career was his calm demeanour, but many recent jersey retirements have become tearful occasions.

Sakic got a little choked up while announcing his retirement at a posh hotel in July. It will likely be even tougher for him to keep it together as he steps back in front of the fans that adored him.

His entire career was spent with the same franchise.

"It didn't take long to go by," Sakic said over the summer.

The same can be said of an NHL off-season that will have spanned 110 days between Sidney Crosby's Pittsburgh Penguins lifting the Stanley Cup and the drop of the puck tonight.

After Sakic's jersey ceremony, Colorado hosts a San Jose Sharks team that is embarking on an important season. The Presidents' Trophy winners from a year ago are looking to erase memories of a disappointing playoff flameout, hoping the addition of Dany Heatley and installation of a new captain (Rob Blake replaces Patrick Marleau) can help turn their fortunes.

The other games on opening night include Alex Ovechkin's Washington Capitals visiting Boston and two all-Canadian matchups — Montreal at Toronto (CBC, 7 p.m. ET) and Vancouver at Calgary (CBC, 10 p.m. ET).

"What's going to be the next surprise story? ... To me what's exciting is that we went to the 184th day of the season last year before we knew which 16 teams were going to be in the playoffs."
NHL commissioner Gary Bettman

The Habs and Leafs enter this season with a number of similarities. Hockey's oldest rivals both feature revamped lineups and will be starting the year without captains.

Both teams also spent the final few days of training camp at retreats intended to help bring the players closer together.

"It's been quite the journey so far," said Canadiens goalie Carey Price. "I think we've bonded as a group. It's been a really good experience."

The Maple Leafs, meanwhile, enter the season with the stated goal of qualifying for the post-season. The team hasn't accomplished that since before the NHL lockout.

One reason for optimism comes from the off-season acquisition of defencemen Mike Komisarek and Francois Beauchemin — players that will join Tomas Kaberle as alternate captains of the team.

"The people that we brought in all have very good leadership qualities," said Leafs coach Ron Wilson. "The leadership we're talking about is the work ethic — not only at the rink, but off the ice as well."

Many view the Flames and Canucks as the Canadian teams most likely to end the country's 16-year championship drought.

Vancouver raced through the pre-season with a 7-0-2 record, but forward Daniel Sedin doesn't believe that's too important.

"It's fun to win in the pre-season, but tomorrow it's going to matter," he said before the Canucks flew to Calgary. "They will be tougher games, but that's why you are here. You are here to play games and try to win them.

"After the eighth or ninth (exhibition) game you are getting kind of tired."

Canucks goaltender Roberto Luongo said starting the new season can help erase the frustration Vancouver felt after losing to Chicago in the second round of the playoffs last year.

"It's exciting," said Luongo. "It's nice to know we are going to start playing for when it counts again. We can finally start putting what happened last year behind us and focus on this season."

That prospect has hockey fans excited.

Even commissioner Gary Bettman, who has no specific rooting interest, finds this to be a refreshing time of year. He will be in Denver for Sakic's jersey retirement night and is excited to see the season start.

"Hope springs eternal," said Bettman. "What's going to be the next surprise story? What teams are going to fulfil expectations, what teams are going to exceed expectations and what teams are going to fall flat? To me what's exciting is that we went to the 184th day of the season last year before we knew which 16 teams were going to be in the playoffs...

"What that tells you is that every game matters and the races start on the first night of the season."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Washington finally embracing the Capitals

D.C. Who would ever have imagined it? The Capitals are the "it" team in Washington.

They have the most popular athlete in the city — sorry, Redskins — and expect to sell out every game. Their first attempt at holding a fan convention this year sold out weeks in advance, and the rush of people when the doors opened had team owner Ted Leonsis evoking comparisons to Woodstock, or Wal-Mart on the day after Thanksgiving.

The most complimentary analogy, however, comes from the club's megastar.

"Everywhere we go I see people with Caps jerseys and Caps hats and they recognize us. My first year in the stands were maybe a couple thousand, and now we're sold out," two-time NHL MVP Alex Ovechkin said. "It's like Canada."

For the rest of the D.C. sports, it's like Siberia. The baseball Nationals are finishing back-to-back 100-loss seasons. The basketball Wizards went 19-63 last season, matching their worst mark for an 82-game schedule. The football Redskins are on the verge of a meltdown, getting booed at home and losing on the road to a team that hadn't won since 2007.

NICK WASS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington's Alex Ovechkin celebrates after scoring his third goal against the Pittsburgh Penguins in Game 2 of their second-round playoff series last season in Washington. The Capitals are now the "it" team in Washington.

"Everywhere we go I see people with Caps jerseys and Caps hats and they recognize us ... It's like Canada." Alex Ovechkin

The Capitals, meanwhile, are proof that winning and savvy marketing can go a long way. The team was a perennial playoff participant for much of the 1980s and 1990s and even made it to the Stanley Cup final in 1998, but it never captured the imagination of the city until Leonsis and general manager George McPhee rebuilt the team around Ovechkin, who has an engaging, gregarious personality and is arguably the best player on the planet.

The next step is a biggie. After a first-round playoff loss in 2007 and a second-round post-season exit last season, it is Stanley Cup or bust when the Capitals open their regular season tonight at Boston. Few are disputing this team has the talent to do it.

"Alex has won all these individual awards," Leonsis said. "To take the next step into immortality, you have to win the Stanley Cup. Because he gets that, and he's internalized that, that permeates everything. He's driven, and the team's driven — that's what we have to do."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAPLE LEAFS 2009-10 SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCT. 1
Montreal at Toronto, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 3
Toronto at Washington, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCT. 6
Ottawa at Toronto, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 10
Pittsburgh at Toronto, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, OCT. 12
Toronto at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCT. 13
Colorado at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 17
N.Y. Rangers at Toronto, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 24
Toronto at Vancouver, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, OCT. 26
Toronto at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28
Toronto at Dallas, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 30
Toronto at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 31
Toronto at Montreal, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 3
Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 6
Toronto at Carolina, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 7
Detroit at Toronto, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 10
Minnesota at Toronto, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 13
Toronto at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 14
Calgary at Toronto, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 17
Toronto at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 19
Toronto at Carolina, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 21
Washington at Toronto, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 23
N.Y. Islanders at Toronto, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25
Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 27
Toronto at Florida, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 30
Buffalo at Toronto, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 1
Toronto at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 3
Toronto at Columbus, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 5
Toronto at Boston, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 7
Atlanta at Toronto, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9
N.Y. Islanders at Toronto, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 10
Toronto at Boston, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 12
Washington at Toronto, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 14
Ottawa at Toronto, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16
Phoenix at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 18
Toronto at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 19
Boston at Toronto, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 21
Buffalo at Toronto, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23
Toronto at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 26
Montreal at Toronto, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 27
Toronto at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30
Toronto at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 2
Toronto at Calgary, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 5
Florida at Toronto, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6
Toronto at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 8
Toronto at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 9
Pittsburgh at Toronto, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 12
Carolina at Toronto, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 14
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 15
Toronto at Washington, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 18
Toronto at Nashville, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 19
Toronto at Atlanta, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 21
Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 23
Toronto at Florida, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 26
Los Angeles at Toronto, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 29
Toronto at New Jersey, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 30
Vancouver at Toronto, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 6
Ottawa at Toronto, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 8
San Jose at Toronto, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 12
Toronto at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2
Carolina at Toronto, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4
Toronto at Boston, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6
Toronto at Ottawa, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7
Toronto at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9
Boston at Toronto, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11
Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13
Edmonton at Toronto, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14
Toronto at N.Y. Islanders, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16
Toronto at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18
New Jersey at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20
Montreal at Toronto, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23
Florida at Toronto, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25
Toronto at Atlanta, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27
N.Y. Rangers at Toronto, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28
Toronto at Pittsburgh, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30
Atlanta at Toronto, 7 p.m.

*End of regular season

Predators add Bouillon
The Nashville Predators signed defenceman Francis Bouillon to a one-year, $750,000 contract yesterday. The 33-year-old posted a career-high five goals, nine points and 53 penalty minutes in 54 games last season for the Canadiens. METRO NEWS SERVICES

NHL Preview

Sun sets on Sundin

Maple Leafs' career scoring leader hangs up his skates

Former Toronto Maple Leafs captain Mats Sundin is retiring from hockey after nearly two decades in the NHL.

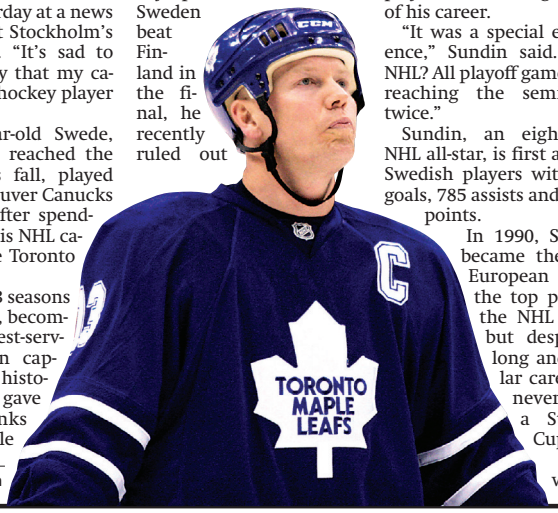
"It was a tough decision," Sundin told reporters yesterday at a news conference at Stockholm's Grand Hotel. "It's sad to tell you today that my career as a pro hockey player is over."

The 38-year-old Swede, who said he reached the decision this fall, played for the Vancouver Canucks last season after spending most of his NHL career with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

He spent 13 seasons with Toronto, becoming the longest-serving European captain in NHL history, and he gave special thanks to the Maple Leafs organization.

"Toronto is and will always be my second home," Sundin said.

One of Sweden's key players in the 2006 Turin Olympics, where Sweden beat Finland in the final, he recently ruled out playing for his home country in next year's Winter Olympics in Vancouver.



Mats Sundin

Sundin singled out winning Olympic gold along with playing in the NHL playoffs as the highlights of his career.

"It was a special experience," Sundin said. "The NHL? All playoff games and reaching the semifinals twice."

Sundin, an eight-time NHL all-star, is first among Swedish players with 564 goals, 785 assists and 1,349 points.

In 1990, Sundin became the first European to be the top pick in the NHL draft, but despite a long and stellar career he never won a Stanley Cup.

"It would have been fun, but I've experienced so much," he said.

Known as "Sudden" in Sweden, Sundin also won three IIHF World Championship titles with Sweden in 1991, '92 and '98.

After nine months on the sidelines, Sundin signed with Vancouver as a free agent in December last year and made his debut with the Canucks in January against the Edmonton Oilers. He recorded nine goals and 19 assists in 41 games, adding three goals and five assists in eight playoff games.

Toronto's career scoring leader, Sundin plans to return to Sweden with his wife later this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Marlies lineup full of budding Maple Leafs

AHL Ben Ondrus is feeling a little older than he'd like to.

The Toronto Marlies captain is still only 27 but, surrounded by so many young teammates, he can't help but feel like the years are starting to blur.

"I don't like to think about it, but I'm almost one of the older guys on the team now," said Ondrus, now entering his seventh season with the Toronto Maple Leafs organization.

The Marlies open their American Hockey League season at home Sunday afternoon versus their provincial rivals, the Hamilton Bulldogs. While the lineup is still anchored by veteran AHLers like Ondrus, Alex Foster and goalie Joey MacDonald, the trickle-down effect from sweeping changes throughout the organization means many new faces will be in the mix.

That includes one behind the bench, as Dallas Eakins, a former assistant with the Leafs and Marlies, takes his first head coaching gig.

"We are trying to develop players for our NHL team and that's our goal, first and foremost," said Eakins, who played 120 NHL games as a defenceman over a 15-year pro career. "Now does that mean these young players will be handed playing time? No it doesn't. They will have to earn it."

Some of those players, like Jiri Tlusty and Nikolai Kulemin, have more than 70 games of NHL experience and are looking to prove they belong back in the big league. Others, like Tyler Bozak, Christian Hanson and Dale Mitchell, represent a group of draft picks and college free agent signees in the infant stages of their pro careers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Rio bid team cry foul

The Rio 2016 Olympics bid team has formally complained to the International Olympic Committee after a report that an official from the rival Madrid bid criticized the Brazilian city. Spanish Olympic Committee vice-president Jose Maria Odriozola reportedly called Rio "the worst bid" of the four candidates. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Ward gets $37.8M deal

The Carolina Hurricanes have locked up goaltender Cam Ward for six more years. The Hurricanes signed Ward to a $37.8-million US contract yesterday. The deal begins next season and runs through 2015-16. The new deal will pay the fifth-year goalie an average of $6.3 million per year. He will earn $3.5 million this season under the terms of his current three-year deal signed in 2007, which expires after this season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

New additions boost Raps' European makeup

BASKETBALL When the Toronto Raptors introduced their players at the team's annual media day this week, team officials also handed out a pronunciation guide.

With the addition of Hedo Turkoglu and Marco Belinelli, the Raptors have five European players on the roster. It's a basketball-without-borders mix of nationalities that both reflects the global growth of the game, and mirrors the multicultural makeup of Toronto.

"I think Toronto is a unique town, somehow I always felt since Day No. 1 that the atmosphere in Toronto as a city is unique, and the team reflects this atmosphere," said Raptors assistant vice-president Maurizio Gherardini.

The Raptors traded for Turkoglu, a native of Istanbul, and Belinelli, a shooting guard from Bologna, Italy, in the off-season. Big Slovenian Rasho Nesterovic also returned to the team as a free agent.

The trio joined Spanish point guard Jose Calderon and Italian forward Andrea Bargnani on a team that has fashioned itself with a distinct international flavour since Bryan Colangelo was hired as the team's general manager in 2006. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Across the NBA

- There's expected to be about 75 international players from just more than 30 countries on NBA rosters when the league tips off Oct. 28.

Blue Jays cutting jobs

Beeston links layoffs to team's collapse after hot start

Another round of layoffs hit the Toronto Blue Jays yesterday, as cuts were made all across the business side of the organization.

Interim CEO Paul Beeston, just back in the office after a vacation, said the total number of cuts was less than two dozen although he would not divulge a specific figure.

"The number was significant," Beeston said from his office. "It's not a pleasant thing to do but we felt it was necessary to ensure the long-term health of the organization."

The entire baseball operations department was untouched by this latest purge, which comes some 10 months after about 40 people lost their jobs last December.

Those layoffs, which focused on sales and customer service staff, were related to the sudden shift of the global economy and concerns of a looming recession. The moves made yesterday come as a result of the team's dramatic drop in attendance from 2008.

The Blue Jays attracted a total of 1,876,129 fans over their 81 home games, well off last year's count of 2,400,416.

Beeston said if the team had maintained its hot start to the season and drawn better through the summer, the cuts might have been avoided. That didn't happen, and he believes the organization is now lean enough to avoid any future dismissals. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ELISE AMENDOLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto Blue Jays starter Roy Halladay throws to first to retire Boston Red Sox's Joey Gathright last night. The Jays won 12-0.

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Sports in brief

NFL The injuries keep piling up on the Buffalo Bills, who could be missing as many as six starters for their game at Miami this weekend.

NFL Derek Anderson will start at quarterback for the Cleveland Browns Sunday against Cincinnati. Coach Eric Mangini has decided to go with Anderson over Brady Quinn.

NFL Colts defensive end Dwight Freeney has a strained right quadriceps but has not ruled himself out of Sunday's game against Seattle.

BASEBALL The Cleveland Indians have fired manager Eric Wedge in the final days of a terrible season. Despite being told he would not be back next season, Wedge will manage the last six games of the season.

CFL Calgary receiver Jeremaine Copeland is the CFL's offensive player of the month after helping the Stampeders to a 3-1 record in September.

OLYMPICS Canada's Olympic victory celebrations at the 2010 Games could be colder than winter itself if athletes pay heed to suggestions to skip the high-fives and handshakes, not to mention the Quebec two-cheek kiss.

TENNIS Robin Soderling cruised into the quarter-finals of the Malaysian Open yesterday by beating Brendan Evans of the United States 6-1, 6-1.

SOCCER Michael Owen's faint hopes of an England recall were dealt a huge blow when he succumbed to injury within 20 minutes of only his third start for Manchester United yesterday.

FOOTBALL Michael Vick is back with Nike more than two years after the company severed ties over the quarterback's involvement in a dogfighting ring. METRO NEWS SERVICES

NBA institutes Twitter ban

BASKETBALL The NBA is instituting a policy regarding Twitter and other social media sites, banning players from using them during games.

The league sent a memo to teams yesterday telling them that cellphones and other communication devices can't be used from 45 minutes before game time until after players have finished their responsibilities after games. That includes halftime. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Isabeli Fontana spills her secret spots in Paris

the scene

Shopping

Chanel
31, rue Cambon, 1st
Paris, France 75001

"I love the Chanel store on Rue Cambon because their handbags are beautiful. Plus, it's very close to where I stay in town, which is even better."

Going Out

Le Bar
5, Rue de la Paix
Paris, France 75002

"I'm usually working when I'm in Paris so I like to relax at the hotel bar at the Park Hyatt, which is where I often like to stay. The staff makes me feel at home every time I'm there. It's nice to unwind at the bar after a long day spent working."

Eating

Dave
12, Rue Richelieu
Paris, France 75001

"It's my favourite restaurant and has the best Chinese food in Paris. The atmosphere is truly amazing. I always see people I know from the fashion industry there."

Primping

Le Spa
5, Rue de la Paix
Paris, France 75002

"The Serenity massage is very relaxing. I treat myself to one whenever I'm there." MAISIE WILHELM

GETTY IMAGES

■ *Fontana (Women Mgmt) is a runway regular. You might also recognize her from the current Roberto Cavalli ads.*

off the beaten track

Paris for the uninvited

Don't have a show ticket? Fret not. Park yourself at one of these spots and you'll probably see just about everyone who is attending the catwalk presentations anyway

ROGER JOSEPH

Club Sandwich

Club Neo
8th Arrondisement

Don't let the "everyman" name fool you. This is an invitation-only monthly party that has become the hot ticket of Paris, attracting fashion kids of every variety. Marc Zaffuto and Emmanuel d'Orazio host, while Alexandre Malgouyres (a publicist for Burberry) and Erik Halley (an accessories designer) spin records. YSL's Stefano Pilati and Givenchy's Riccardo Tisci have both been spotted getting the party going.

Colette

213, rue Saint-Honoré
Paris, France 75001

The boutique has never been simply about the clothes but about shopping as an amp-itheatre sport. During Fashion Week, lines wind throughout the store, making it the ultimate fashion obstacle course to navigate. Call it extreme pretty-people-watching. Have lunch at the restaurant downstairs and then work your way up the store's three floors.

Hôtel Costes

239 rue St-Honoré
Paris, France 75001

Situated right in the heart of the Rue Saint Honoré fashion district, the luxuriously Italianate townhouse hotel Costes is frequented by style types attuned to its opulent décor and its proximity to some of the city's more upscale boutiques. Celebrity sightings here include some of France's most celebrated film stars including Fanny Ardant and Catherine Deneuve. Try not to gawk.

Le Cafe Marly

93, rue de Rivoli
Paris, France 75001

It's expensive, but what a view! And we are not talking about the architect I.M. Pei's famous pyramid. A place to see and be seen, located in the Richelieu wing of the Palace museum, the café's glass walls are all that separate the salon's clientele of fashion and literary notables from works of art in the Louvre itself. And yes, the man with the fan is indeed Karl Lagerfeld.

WIREIMAGE

■ *Karl Lagerfeld in Colette.*

FRONT ROW PARIS

In Paris, the front-row cast is less concerned with taking tabloid photo-ops and more preoccupied with snagging endorsement and collaboration deals.

julia restoin-roitfeld
What makes her front-row worthy: She's a connected, budding creative director and (most importantly) the daughter of French Vogue editor Carine Roitfeld.
Where she's been spotted: Chloé, Christian Lacroix

charlotte casiraghi
What makes her front-row worthy: As the fourth in line to the crown of Monaco, she's European royalty.
Where she's been spotted: Chanel, Stella McCartney

lou doillon
What makes her front-row worthy: A fashion wild child, she's living proof you can blend British eccentricity and French chic (her mom is Jane Birkin and her dad is Jacques Doillon.)
Where she's been spotted: Givenchy, Elie Saab

audrey tautou
What makes her front-row worthy: Among a number of reasons, she portrayed Coco Chanel in the biopic Coco Avant Chanel.
Where she's been spotted: Chanel, Balenciaga, Celine

inès de la fressange
What makes her front-row worthy: Karl Lagerfeld considered her a muse for Chanel before they had a falling out.
Where she's been spotted: Jean-Paul Gaultier, Chanel

cécile cassel
What makes her front-row worthy: She comes from a legendary French acting dynasty.
Where she's been spotted: Louis Vuitton, Emanuel Ungaro

kanye west
What makes him front-row worthy: We told you (see New York), the man's *obsessed*.
Where he's been spotted: Yves Saint Laurent, Givenchy

roisin murphy
What makes her front-row worthy: The singer's "anything goes" approach to dressing makes her a hit with the fashion kids.
Where she's been spotted: Givenchy, Miu Miu

ROMINA McGUINNESS

RESTOIN-ROITFELD

CASIRAGHI

FRESSANGE

DOILLON

WEST

TAUTOU

CASSEL

MURPHY

GETTY IMAGES

THE COOL KIDS LOVE IT | RED-CARPET FRIENDLY | A HIT WITH THE PARIS OLD GUARD | FASHION WITH A CAPITAL "F" | SO TRENDY RIGHT NOW | SOCIETY GIRL FAVOURITE

A certain je ne sais quoi

Parisian Fashion Week style is more about a look and an attitude than the labels. But can you tousle your hair and throw on your clothes in just the right unaffected way that the editors and models do? We say start by scoping out a few timelessly edgy pieces. You're on your own with the hair

KENYA HUNT

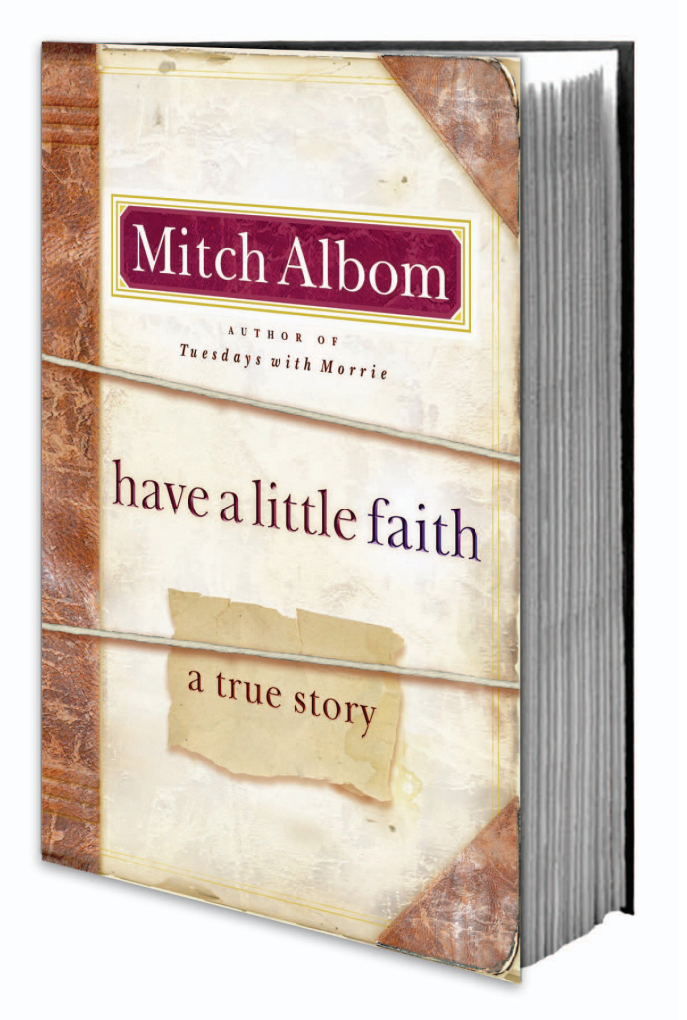
Giuseppe Zanotti platforms, $1,231 CDN, colette.fr
The shoes, must be fierce.

Iosselliani multi-chain necklace, $707 CDN iosselliani.com
An elaborate necklace can look effortlessly cool when paired with something totally casual.

Luella blazer, $276 CDN, luella.com
A tailored men's style blazer is still the best way to polish off a work outfit and show that you mean business. Consider it your armour for the fashion trails.

A.P.C. cotton shorts, $199 CDN netaporter.com
Whether cotton or leather, a pair of black tailored shorts is a key must-have in Paris. Rock them with your boyfriend's button down or a blazer.

ZOE tee's harem pants $141 CDN start-london.com
Thanks to Givenchy couture, we can expect harem pants to be hot for at least a few more seasons. Rock them with a perfectly cut tee and a statement necklace (see above).



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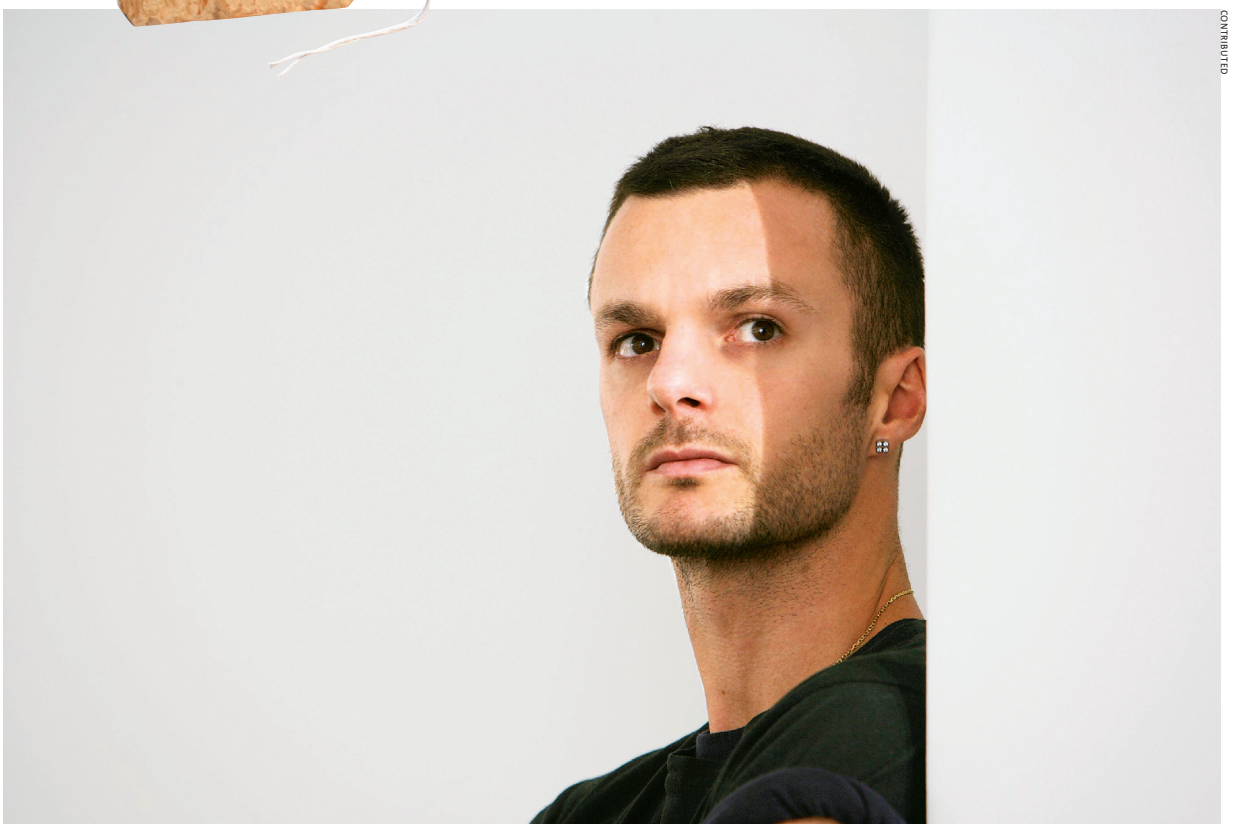
CONTRIBUTED

kris van assche

A man of absolutes

From his women's wear line to his work for Dior Homme, Kris Van Assche eats and breathes fashion

Kris Van Assche is a man who lives for his work. He talks about fashion the way the most devoted convert might talk about religion. For example, the Belgian, 33, refers to his career decision to set up his own eponymous women's wear line back in 2004 as a "philosophy of life" and a "haven of peace." He compares the correlation between his men's wear work for Dior Homme (Van Assche replaced Hedi Slimane as artistic director in 2007) and his women's wear line to the union of a man and woman, another common analogy in religion. His holistic approach to design makes for two clothing collections that look like different sides of the same perfectly constructed coin. Even his popular sneakers have a certain intensity to them. His work is precisely tailored and, yet, relaxed. It's intellectually heavy, but still light. His work has also been the subject of much scrutiny during the past two years since he's replaced Slimane, the man who revolutionized men's wear (Karl Lagerfeld lost more than 50 pounds just to fit into Slimane's trademark slim-fitting suits), and took Dior in a completely different direction. It's not an easy act to follow. But one gets the sense that Van Assche will be successful simply because he's so dead-set on it. We caught up with him during the weeks following his spring 2010 men's show for Dior, as he was preparing to create his next women's collection, which will show in Paris this October.

"For my first Dior Homme catwalk I felt like I was in the line of fire. It doesn't help you make changes to the label."

What are your earliest memories of fashion?
Fighting with my mother over a yellow sweater I didn't want to wear. I must have been around four-years-old.

Who were some of your earliest fashion heroes?
I first learned about fashion through huge French fashion shows like the ones from (Thierry) Mugler and (Jean Paul) Gaultier. Though, I quickly discovered Belgian fashion with the likes of Ann Demeulemeester, Dries Van Noten, Martin Margiela and so on. I felt much closer to their world and their approach to fashion.

If you could pinpoint a pivotal point in your career, what would it be?
Setting up my own label, Kris Van Assche, remains the most decisive moment of my life. Although I was well-prepared and organized, it felt like a huge leap into the unknown. This fashion house is incredibly important for me. It's my laboratory and my haven of peace. Creating your own fashion house is much more than creating a boutique. It is in reality a life choice, a state of mind. A philosophy of life so to speak.

How would you describe the Kris Van Assche woman?
She's a conqueror and she's sensual. She mixes clean cuts and softness, rigour and lightness. Her suits are inspired by the man's wardrobe. She's the strong woman standing behind my romantic man. She's all the women who surround me who don't let anyone tread on their feet, and manage to do it without turning into men.

Is it difficult switching gears between your work for Dior Homme and your own collection?
It's not as tough as I thought it would be. There are certain themes that just don't feel right for the one or the other, but most of the time the decisions feel natural. Of course, at Dior Homme, the atelier influences the direction of the clothes a lot. It's a different kind of research there, so the result is different. CONTINUED ON F6

CATWALKING

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CONTINUED FROM F4

For my own label, 80 per cent of the work is done while sketching. At Dior Homme, the sketch is just a starting point.

Before you began working for Dior Homme, how did you perceive it?
As a line that initiated the revolution in menswear fashion during the last decade. Dior Homme represents luxury and modernity, creativity and quality.

Is it easier to create a collection for Dior now than it was when you first replaced Hedi Slimane there?
Nobody said it was going to be easy, and it wasn't. It was clear to all that it was going to take some time. But I am getting there and I feel better after each show. Each house goes through changes of artistic directors. It should be a mundane occurrence. It's not worth making a big deal out of it. For my first Dior Homme catwalk I felt like I was in the line of fire. It doesn't help you make changes to the label. A label that does not evolve, doesn't exist. What's innovative at a specific moment does not remain so for long. My aim is therefore to make changes.

With each collection, do you ever feel a certain pressure to create "the new"?
Of course, (if I don't create) desire and pleasure, the work is meaningless.

What is the experience like reading the reviews after a collection shows?
It would be hypocritical to say that it doesn't touch me in the slightest. After a show you always read the critics feverishly. A bad critic has the same effect as a slap. You feel a sharp pain but it goes away fairly quickly.

What is usually your starting point for a collection?
I don't have a ritual. It varies. It can be a piece of music, a photograph, a story. I have an open mind towards each and every culture, whether popular or underground. I get inspired by everything and I remain constantly porous.

Outside of the world of fashion, whose work do you find inspiring?
I'm close to certain up-and-coming contemporary artists. David Cassini and Andrea Mastrovito are people I admire and whom I know well. I sometimes create (visual art) installations for which the concepts, even if they seem remote from fashion, undoubtedly influence my collections.

Of your contemporaries, whose work do you find particularly good or inspiring?
Belgian artists like Ann Demeleumeester, Dries Van Noten and Haider Ackermann remain references for me as far as rigour, talent and independence are concerned.

In your opinion, what is the biggest misconception that other people have of you?
I am not distant, I am Flemish. There's a slight difference.

KENYA HUNT

CATWALKING

KRIS' WORLD

by the numbers

2 Number of times he worked with Hedi Slimane (at Yves Saint Laurent and Dior Homme).

5 Number of art exhibitions Van Assche has created work for, including a special project called Desiré that featured 100 resin arms handing out handkerchiefs.

1976 Year Van Assche was born.

12 The magic number for last year's Kris Van Assche ad campaign. Twelve ad layouts ran in 12 international magazines.

top three

The designer's favourite places in Paris

Cibus restaurant
5, Rue Molière
75001 Paris, France
Some consider it to be one of the best Italian restaurants in Paris.

Escape
The flower markets on the riverbanks of the Seine
Locals and tourists flock to it for the greenery and scenery.

Shopping
The Saint Ouen Flea Market
It's a treasure trove of old vintage and antique finds.

Paris' many faces

CATWALKING

GETTY IMAGES

the avant garde

rei kawakubo, comme des garçons

jun takahashi, undercover

the leader:
CDG designer Rei Kawakubo is one of the industry's most revered and forward-thinking designers. Designers the world over study her work (left). When she creates something, the rest of the fashion industry catches on — five years later.

the one to watch:
Kawakubo hand-picked the Japanese label (right), designed by Jun Takahashi, to be sold in her London store, Dover Street Market, which is like a "Who's Who" in fashion.

GETTY IMAGES

CONTRIBUTED

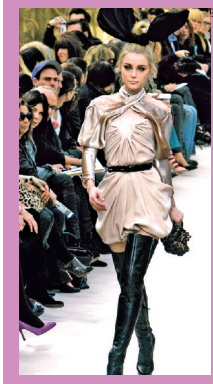
the wearable and cool school

stella mccartney

isabel marant

the leader:
It's telling that Stella McCartney's blazers (left) are one of the most knocked-off items in stores. She has a knack for making effortlessly cool stuff that everyday women want to wear.

the one to watch:
Isabel Marant's name has become synonymous with that hard-to-put-your-finger-on quality that makes Parisian women look so chic and cool. Her work (right) has a relaxed, edgy vibe to it.


AP

CATWALKING

the directional squad

marc jacobs, louis vuitton

christophe decarnin, balmain

the leader:
Where Marc Jacobs goes, a huge chunk of the fashion industry tends to follow. Who else could make bunny ears (left) popular?

the one to watch:
While Christophe Decarnin is hardly a new name in fashion, he's only recently revealed himself as a major force by single handedly making the old French fashion house, Balmain, cutting edge with a rocker chic aesthetic (right).

KENYA HUNT

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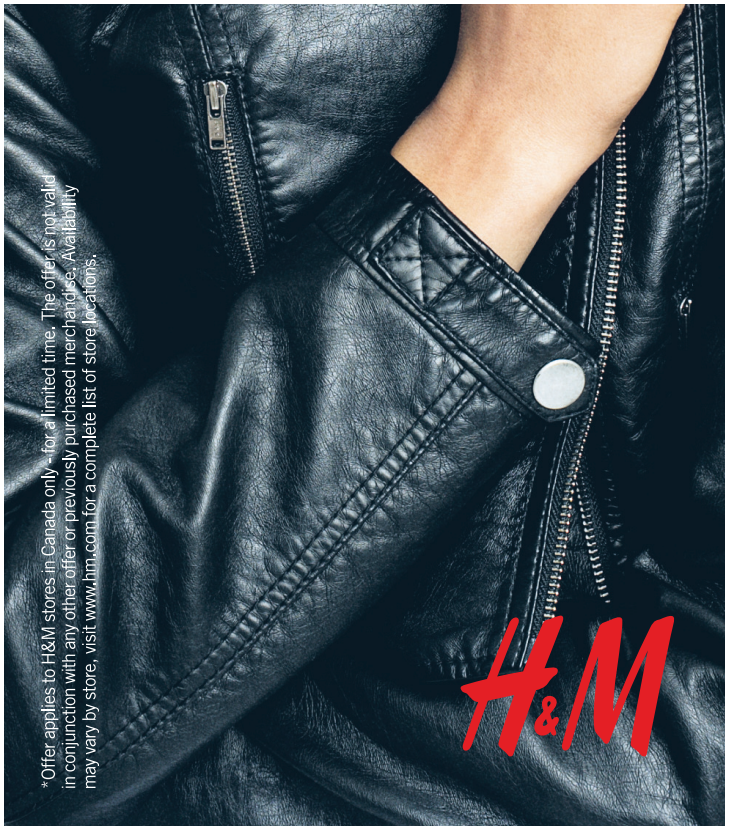

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A season of colour

Milan Fashion week combats recession with lots of cheer, happy colours

At Milan Fashion week it was clear that the designers were looking to lift the yoke of recession gloom.

The spring/summer 2010 collections previewed on the runway speak of happy colours, easy styles and lots of sensuality.

The DSquared2 campsite presented on Monday, the last day of the week of preview showings, is a perfect example.

"It has been a very youthful season," said Bepe Modenese, honorary president of the Italian Fashion chamber and the man who got Milan fashion started back in the 1970s.

Famous for their skintight sexy styles, this round the Italian designer's presenting their summer wears opt to keep things demure. Peek-a-boo lace, sheer fabrics and transparent plastic are the favourite see-through materials, but the styles are loose and innocent, from the myriad of bubble skirts, to the short shorts and minidresses.

DSquared2

The show by DSquared2, Canadian designing twins Dean and Dan Caten, was full immersion into the wild, from the tents pitched on the runway to the hiking gear and rain wear.

The designers known for their fun-loving styles put together the perfect outfit for the city-slicker camper. The basic look was a distressed pair of jeans shorts, a boy scout shirt decorated with badges and a baseball cap.

Trousers were oversized in bright plasticized fabrics worn with an "I love camping" sweatshirt. Evening wear is fash ioned out of shiny plasticized fabric from the bubble skirts to the colourful full-skirt ed gowns to guarantee a waterproof soiree.

Biagiotti

Leave it to Laura Biagiotti, queen of cashmere, to come up with an almost transpar ent version of the precious wool for next year's summer months.

In her show notes Biagiotti says artist Giacomo Balla's butterfly was the inspiration for her latest collection. Biagiotti is a collector of the 20th-century Italian artist's work.

The butterfly's expansive shapes become pleated dresses, wide-sleeved cardigans, ponchos with drawstring waists or soft pants with wide pannier pockets and narrow hems. At times the butterfly is embroidered in sequins on evening wear.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

■ *A look from the Biagiotti spring/summer 2010 collection*

■ *A look from the Dsquared2 spring/summer 2010 collection*

Designing is child's play
Versace's latest handbag collection has been designed by children. Donatella Versace, has teamed up with a group of youngsters in New York to create a charitable new accessories range that will help those less privileged. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Style

What would Coco do?

Get a modern look at the life of one fashion's most influential icons in The Gospel According to Coco Chanel: Life Lessons from the World's Most Elegant Woman by Karen Karbo ($24.95). The book delves into Chanel's fascinating life story while exploring the French designer's philosophy on a range of themes — from style and passion to money and success. Available at Indigo and Chapters stores across Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

A fashion innovator

Coco Chanel popularized much of what we still celebrate

SOFI PAPAMARKO
For Metro Canada

Coco Chanel is back in fashion... although she never really fell out of it.

With the release of Audrey Tautou's Chanel biopic Coco Avant Chanel, the creations of the fascinating and highly controversial 20th century fashion designer are being celebrated anew.

Coco Avant Chanel opens in theatres Friday

Here are just a few Coco Chanel innovations that have withstood the test of time:

Designer Perfume

Coco Chanel believed that a woman should smell like a woman, not like a flower: "I want to give the world something artificial … like a dress. Something that has been made … I want a perfume that is a composition." Chanel's iconic fragrance debuted in 1921, making it the first-ever designer perfume. Scent-pushers Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger, Jean-Paul Gaultier and Marc Jacobs all have Mademoiselle Chanel to thank.

The Little Black Dress

Chanel popularized this wardrobe staple during the 1920s. No matter what the occasion, if you throw on a little black dress and a string of pearls, you'll look chic and sophisticated. This was true 50 years ago and it is likely that it will still be true 50 years from now. The LBD is flattering, elegant and timeless.

Comfort and Luxury

"Luxury must be comfortable, otherwise it is not luxury." Before Chanel arrived on the scene, women suffered terribly in the name of fashion. Corsets, padding and hobble skirts were de rigeur. "Other designers would make outfits or costumes. Things that didn't necessarily relate to every day," says Toronto designer Trish Ewanika (ewanika.ca), whose designs have a similar understated elegance to Chanel's. "(She) would design clothing that a woman could wear day or night. Not a riding outfit or a dress to wear to the opera. Just a nice dress. She was more functional."

Chanel also utilized fabrics previously scoffed at by designers, such as soft and comfortable jersey. "The House of Chanel has remained very true to Coco Chanel's original feel," says Comrags co-founder Joyce Gunhouse. "(They make) clothes that women really want to wear. Because they can live in them."

A Healthy Glow

While Coco Chanel didn't technically "invent" the suntan, she inadvertently made bronzed skin into a fashion accessory. Pallor was considered the very height of beauty until a very tanned Chanel stepped off the Duke of Westminster's yacht after a holiday. From then on, tanned skin became synonymous with a life of leisure, as opposed to a life of toiling in fields. We probably wouldn't have bronzer (yay!) or tanning beds (don't do it!) were it not for Chanel.

Legendary 20th-century French designer Coco Chanel is responsible for many of the designs we still consider "classics" today. (Audrey Tautou portrays Chanel in this photo from the film Coco Avant Chanel).

The Chanel-inspired life

TREND The movie industry might have only recently discovered the enigmatic Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel with a spate of films, but the fashion world has always been enraptured with this renowned designer.

The little black dress, the iconic collarless tweedy jacket, the quilted bag with chain straps, the black and white palette are all signatures of the label and still very popular today.

Here are some pieces that illustrate the brilliance of these original designs that transcend age and social and economic barriers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PHOTOS BY KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Armani's upbeat collection
Giorgio Armani presented a bright and upbeat spring/summer 2010 collection at Milan Fashion Week. The collection featured lots of loose-fitting and comfortable pieces paired with more structured looks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOTOS BY LUCA BRUNO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
DOLCE& GABBANA

Designers like it hot in Milan

Boudoir styles, once a trademark of Italian fashion, are back for spring/summer 2010.

But rather than the sex pot numbers, which brought out the best in designers such as Dolce&Gabbana and Gianni Versace, this round the look is demure and yesteryear.

Corset tops worn over a jeans bubble skirt, panties peeping out of a pair of short shorts and bra tops veiled in silk chiffon all combine to create a romantic rather than raunchy mood.

Dolce & Gabbana

In this season of lingerie looks, no one could feel more at home than Dolce&Gabbana, who first turned inner wear into outerwear on the Milan runway some 30 years ago.

For spring/summer 2010, the designing duo run the gamut from corsets to culottes in fetching lace, crochet and floral printed silk.

The transparent effect of lace is used on jackets, dresses, skirts and even shoes and bags. A three-piece tuxedo with cropped jacket and jodhpur pants serves as a reminder that you don't have to take your clothes off to be sexy.

Fendi

There is a feel of yesteryear at Fendi, as if someone had opened Grandma's trousseau trunk and wrapped each item in light gauze for protection.

Everything from the old-fashioned bras and panties to bubble skirts, shorts and even the high-heeled shoes is covered in a thin veil, lending an ethereal effect to the new spring/summer collection designed by Karl Lagerfeld.

THE ASSOCIATEDPRESS

FENDI

Right: Many of the Milan Fashion Week collections showcased a demure, nostalgic look with the use of silk and lace-laden garments, including corsets.

H&M to partner with Rykiel

COLLECTION H&M has its sights set on both barely-there fashions and more cosy creations with its upcoming guest collections from Sonia Rykiel.

The fashion company founded in Sweden is teaming up with the French fashion house for its winter and spring collections. The partnership marks the first time H&M has extended its designer collaboration to the world of lingerie and related accessories for women.

The collection will be launched in 1,500 stores on Dec. 5.

The two fashion companies will again collaborate on the spring 2010 collection, this time featuring knitwear for women and girls and accessories. The second collection is scheduled for launch in about 250 H&M stores on February 20, 2010. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A look from Sonia Rykiel's autumn/winter 2009 collection.

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PURPLE REIGNS

ADVICE Royal shades of purple, aubergine, prune,iris and plum lend opulence to winter's austere palette. Mix in shots of cool grey for a fashion statement straight off the catwalk.

Suede T-staps sandals, Nine West ($135, ninewest.ca)

Acrylic knit scarf, Aldo Accessories ($28, aldoaccessories.com)

PVC frame bag, Reitmans ($24, reitmans.ca)

STUDIO ANDRÉ DOYON

To read these stories and more, visit: **ellecanada.com**

Wool coat, Winners ($100, winners.ca)

Stretch-cotton turtleneck, Dynamite ($35, dynamite.ca)

TIGHT END

Hair Bungees ($9 for two packs of four); Goody Colour Collection Petite Bobby Pins in Black ($3.49 for a pack)

The key to a bump-free ponytail that won't loosen lies in this unsuspecting elastic with hooks. "It's really the number one tool for creating a tight ponytail," says Hallie Bowman, a celebrity stylist for Pantene. "I always use it when I'm doing someone's hair up and I want it to be super-slick."

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Thornberry Woods' French twist

RAF BRUSILOW
for Metro Toronto

Suite Talk

Traditional French elegance melds with a few modern twists at Thornberry Woods.

The development, located in Maple on Dufferin Street just north of Rutherford Road, looks to please homebuyers looking for detached homes that offer both refinement and comfort.

Alex Margulis, founder of Neodeco Designs which designed the model suites on the site, says the overriding goal with the design was to capture a spirit of freshness and drama while maintaining a sense of traditional grandeur.

"We wanted to create a design vocabulary to create a dramatic, contemporary look. Everything had to have a twist."
Alex Margulis, Neodeco Designs

"We wanted to create a design vocabulary to create a dramatic, contemporary look. Everything had to have a twist; everything had to be different. It is classic French elegance with a little twist of the contemporary," Margulis said.

Both model suites are appointed with an impressive list of attractive embellishments and features. Crown moulding provides a subtle, elegant touch and circular open oak staircases create a regal look magnified by the 12-foot and 9-foot high ceilings in the main living areas while strip hardwood flooring and decorative columns strengthen the message of finely tuned luxury.

Shades of delicate creams and soft pastels provide an undercurrent of warmth throughout to provide a spirit of peaceful harmony.

"The textures are beautiful and we try to flow the fabric colour scheme throughout the house," Margulis said.

The Maplewood unit features a warmer mix of aquamarines, teals and gold shades ornamented with classically elegant furniture while the Rosewood unit features a striking union of deep cappuccino with creams and beiges to create a more pronounced reaction.

"I wanted to create two different ambiances — one for people who want more of a soft look and one for young people with a contemporary look," Margulis said.

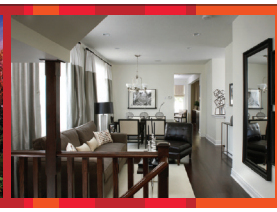
A selection of photographs of the Rosewood unit designs.

The master bedroom in the Rosewood unit is Margulis' showpiece and features a cavalcade of silk, mirrored silver surfaces and arabesque textures subtly reminiscent of a sultan's tent.

By combining classic and modern influences, Margulis hopes the majesty of each unit will resonate with buyers on a primal level.

"I want people to really be excited to walk through the doors of these suites — to believe they could be living in these spaces," Margulis said.

Fall Into... Design.



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The kitchen tool-kit

EMMA YARDLEY
for Metro Canada

Just like a builder needs a hammer, measuring tape and marking pencil, a cook needs a knife, grater and mixing spoon.

"The right tool makes the job easier," explains Adell Shneer, test kitchen food specialist at Canadian Living magazine. "I don't think people need every tool and gadget available … a good tool is one that simplifies your task."

Shneer is a graduate of the baking program at George Brown College and spends about 20 hours every week cooking. She knows what she needs to transform raw ingredients into a prepared meal.

"The three tools I can't live without are a 8-inch Mac Chef's knife, Kuhn Rikon or Swissmar peeler and a small offset spatula."

To build your own kitchen toolbox, think about which meals you make most often and see if there's a gadget out there to help cut preparation time.

1. Chop, mince, blend, and puree — this little beauty is the ultimate portable power tool. Cuisinart SmartStick Hand Blender, $59.99, Sears, sears.ca.
2. The IKEA 365+ balloon whisk can withstand temperatures up to 428 F and has a soft non-stick coating so it won't scratch pot surfaces. Ikea, $6.99, ikea.com/ca.
3. To prepare a Friday night feast of pizza, French fries and ice cream, hook this Kitchenaid set firmly into your kitchen tool belt. Canadian Tire, $9.99, canadiantire.ca.
4. This undeniably beautiful handmade olivewood mortar and pestle is one place in the kitchen where smashing and crushing is encouraged. Anthropologie, $53.56, anthropologie.com.
5. Pump the handle on the Chef'n Salad Spinner and whisk away water from any freshly washed salad greens or garden herbs. Teatro Verde, $39.95, teatroverde.com.
6. The professional wedged-shaped Twin Profection knives are balanced, easy to control and have a one-piece, ice-hardened blade. Zwilling J.A. Henckels Germany, $125-$200, zwilling.com.

Style At Home Magazine
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CANADA'S style at home **Decor**

Laundry *lovelies*

Stash your dirty laundry in one of the hottest new hampers around.
By Ann Marie Favot.
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID BAGOSY
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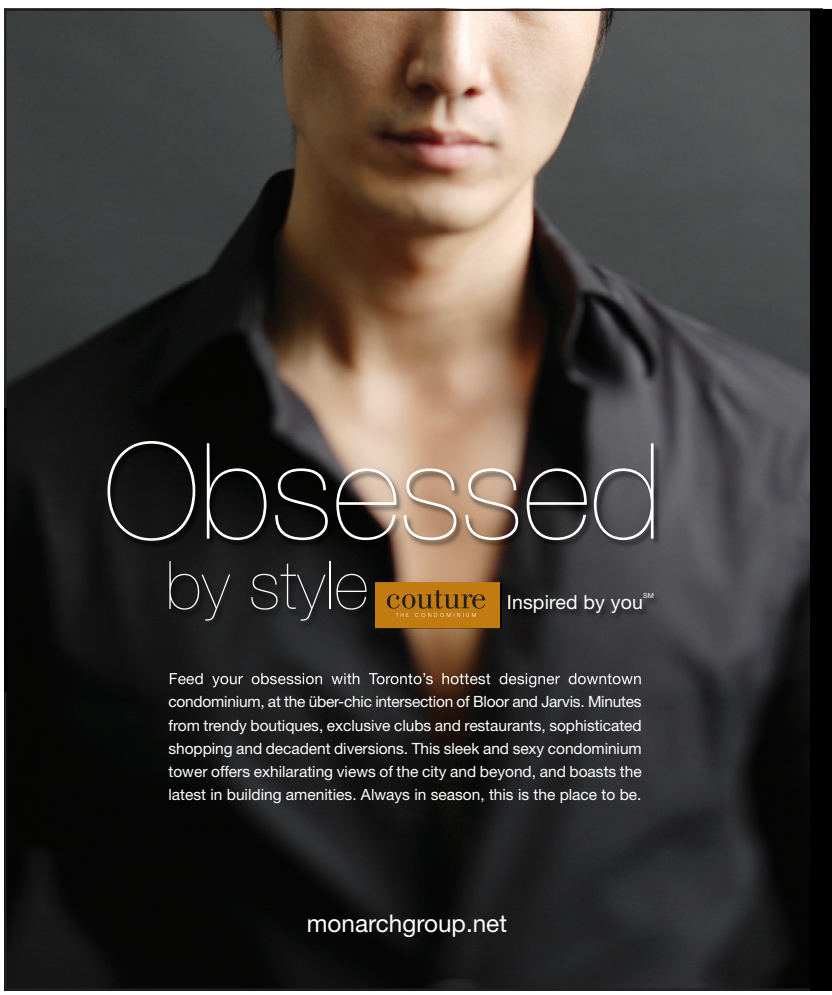

Fighting chilly drafts
To keep chilly drafts from blowing into your house, check seals around windows and doors and caulk and weatherstrip if necessary. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Enter Old Man Winter

HomeScape

As sure as summer follows spring, winter will follow the fall.

And when you live in a northern climate, you come to understand in a very fundamental way that you must prepare for the coming season.

Around the house, that means you must batten down the hatches. There will be cold, and there will be wetness, whether it is rain, slush or snow, and all these things can damage property and must be kept out of your house.

Ice, blowing winds and frigid temperatures have a way of making outdoor work nasty, so why not do the work now, while the conditions are still relatively pleasant?

To heat your house efficiently and keep the heat inside and the cold outside, here are some pointers that will help you keep snug:

- Clean and service your furnace and have your heating system checked out by a qualified HVAC professional.
- If you remember from last year that your home is cold in certain locations, use spray-in insulation foam to close any gaps between the floor and wall, for instance, or underneath windows.
- Check outside as well.

There are many things you can do to prep your home for winter.

If you have bricks that need repointing, or gaps between brick and the roof, for instance, now is a good time to repair cracked or missing mortar between bricks or to seal any gaps. At the same time, check any exhaust vents or any other "holes" in your wall and caulk around them if needed.

- Like a good hat on your head, extra insulation in the attic can do wonders to keep rising heat within the confines of your home.

At the same time, you must ensure good ventilation so that air quality is not compromised.

- Inspect all exhaust venting, whether it be from a stove, a furnace, a dryer, a bathroom or a tankless water heater. Remove any obstruction, such as bird or wasp nests or debris, which can block a vent and force exhaust gases back into your home. If you have a fireplace, check the chimney to make sure it's clear.

Moisture and wetness in your home is a problem year-round, but in winter, the potential for damage increases, especially if it involves water.

- Before freezing temperatures hit, turn off outside water, and remove and store your garden hose indoors.
- Clean your eavestroughs so water will not freeze in the troughs or overflow and cause possible leakage through the foundations.
- Make sure the ground around the foundations slopes away from your house. If you have a driveway or walkway, ensure the gap beside the house and any cracks are sealed.
- Check your roof for any damaged shingles that may leak over the winter.

To protect other property from the elements, remember to store outdoor furniture and the barbecue out of the elements. At the very least, cover them with weather-resistant covers and park them where the wind cannot topple them.

Last but not least, put out a snow shovel and a de-icing agent, in preparation for what will come.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

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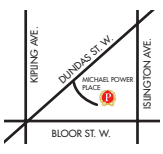

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Getting to know your new home

Previous owners can show you the ropes

After house-hunting, negotiating a price and working out details of his move, Patrick O'Leary was ready to tackle the real work: Understanding and operating the various mechanical systems in his big new home.

You love your new home, but how well do you know it?

He was relieved when the former owner offered to meet him at the East Greenwich, R.I., house to go over its theatre equipment, sprinkler system and pool. The seller left O'Leary a list of companies and contractors who have worked on the home in recent years.

"They put all the bells and whistles in this house. It would have been difficult to just walk in and understand everything," he said. "It definitely gives a comfort level."

No law obligates sellers to help buyers learn the idiosyncrasies of a house, but some go to great lengths to help the new owners settle in. Buyers should ask about everything from the day-to-day operations of the house to landscaping details to the names of neighbourhood baby sitters, said real estate agent Ron Phipps.

"There's so much data you can collect," said Phipps, who sells real estate in Warwick, R.I., and is first vice-president of the Chicago-based National Association of Realtors.

"It's unfortunate if a buyer doesn't have access to a seller to explain things," he said.

Typically, the amount of information exchanged depends on the character of the negotiations, Phipps said. Falling home prices and tough negotiations in recent years have made some sellers less likely to provide additional details, he said.

Real estate agent Gregg Whitney has found it easier to provide buyers with information about contractors and home professionals himself than to rely on sellers.

"We realized we could make sure they're taken care of," said Whitney, of La Jolla, Calif. "It's really important to have somebody you can call and get questions answered."

But nothing can replace seller insights, he added.

"Invariably, every house has a little something," he said. "It's not that the seller didn't disclose something, it's just how the mechanics work."

That's why it never hurts to ask sellers for information, said Donna Batdorff, a real estate agent. She encourages buyers to put together a list of questions after the deal has been negotiated. She suggests asking everything from the names of paint colours to the names and details of immediate neighbours.

Batdorff even asks sellers to fill out a form during closing offering information about garbage pickup, appliance warranties and vendors who have worked on the house. The document often leads to the exchange of additional useful information, she said.

"Buyers and sellers don't do this all the time," she said. "It helps if the real estate agent facilitates the conversation."

Sellers who are sentimental about their home often appreciate the chance to share details, added Judi Scull, a real estate agent. "A lot of times people just love their house," she said.

She recently oversaw a meeting where a buyer walked the new owner around the home's meandering property line, pointed out interesting varieties of trees and shared the location of a generator hookup.

Scull still remembers when she was 13 and received a nice housewarming present from the girl who moved out of the house her family moved into. "She drew up a map that listed where all the cute boys in the neighbourhood lived," Scull recalled. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From trash pickup to paint colours ...

Questions to ask previous owner of new home

- Are any appliances under warranty?
- Do you have product manuals for appliances?
- Can you provide a landscape plan or a list of outdoor plants and how to care for them?
- What are the names and phone numbers of immediate neighbours?
- Are there children living on the street?
- Is there a school bus stop?
- What day is trash pickup?
- What do I do with recyclables?
- What are your favourite restaurants, video stores and parks?
- Can you recommend a dry cleaner, mechanic, etc.?
- What companies did you use for lawn care, snow removal, pool cleaning, etc.?
- Is there an electrician, plumber or technician familiar with the systems in the house?
- What are the names of the paint colours used in the house?
- Are there any light switches that operate something unexpected? THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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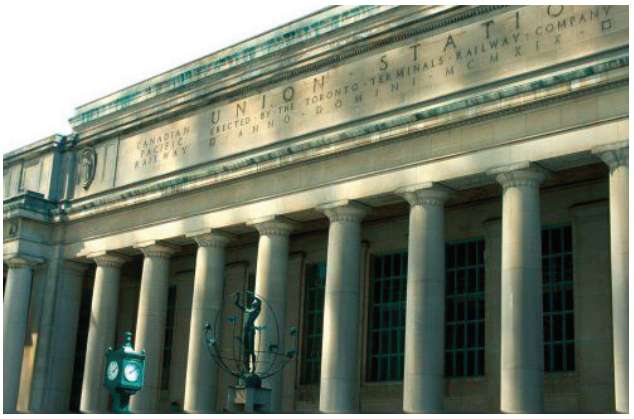

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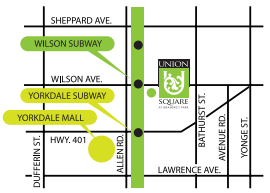

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

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Part 4 - Entertaining for less

Denise Surette

Entertaining family and friends in your home is a great way to share experiences with loved ones, without spending too much money.

This year's Fall Home Show presented by RE/MAX will be opening its doors this weekend to help you renovate your home and give you tips on how to entertain with flair, for less.

Vicky Sanderson, Toronto Star columnist and entertaining guru, will be on stage to help you learn how to entertain on a budget and keep things simple and elegant.

Sanderson says the focus of her entertaining presentation is to remind people that entertaining should be enjoyable and not too much work.

"It's supposed to be fun and relaxing," says Sanderson. 'Give each other the gift of spending time together."

For a fun evening with friends, Sanderson says to prepare ahead so you have a chance to sit and talk with your guests. Using a slow cooker or a rice cooker, you can prepare delicious dinners hours ahead of time, use a cheaper cut of meat and still have time for drinks with your guests before dinner.

"You don't want to say goodbye to people at the end of the night, saying 'what party?'" says Sanderson.

Sanderson says her favourite trend for fall and winter entertaining is based on serving local foods around your table. She recommends local meats and cheeses to be served to guests with homemade bread.

Another entertaining guru will be hitting the stage, author Dee Brun, also known as the Cocktail Deeva, will be using common ingredients to make uncommon drinks.

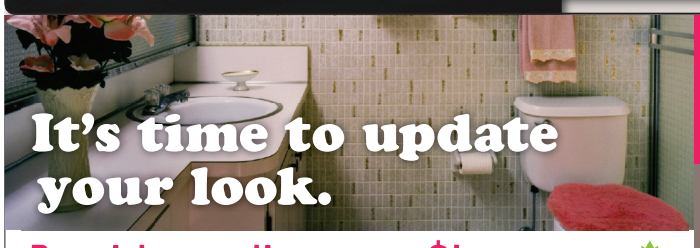
"My motto is 'use what you have,'" says Brun, author of A Girl's Guide to Life: One Cocktail at a Time. "You don't need a new drink for every party."

Brun recommends using unique juices, such as pomegranate and blood orange, with old staples like rum and vodka. Add some fun glasses and you'll have a creative party drink.

To bring your drink to the center stage at your party, Brun recommends using your drink colour as an accent colour.

"People are doing parties with signature drinks, and then the colour is used as a theme," says Brun.

To learn more on the art of entertaining, you can see Vicky Sanderson on stage at the Fall Home Show on Oct. 3 and 4 at 2 p.m., and Dee Brun on stage on Oct. 1 at 5 p.m., Oct. 2 at 5 p.m. and Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m.



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Timing isn't everything, buy or sell only when you are totally ready

TheHunt
Amit Paul
Metronews.ca/thehunt

With October next on the horizon, those home buyers and sellers who have been trying to make a move all summer begin wondering if they should continue their efforts or if they should hold off until next year.

Buyer Nadia begins to wonder if she's better off waiting until fall kicks in so that she can avoid the high summer prices, while seller Cindy wonders if she's missed the boat on the summer months and would be better off waiting until next spring.

Is there an ideal time to buy or sell? I've said it before and I'll say it again, the best time to buy or sell is when you're ready to, and not a moment before or after. Buyer Nadia needs to understand that it's not the prices that will go down in the fall/winter but rather the number of buyers and the number of homes for sale. She'll have fewer competing buyers, which means she may be able to save a few thousand dollars through negotiations, but she may also have to compromise on the home she's purchasing as less will be for sale. Her chances of finding her ideal home decline but her chances of finding a relatively suitable home at a fair market price remain strong. Nadia may have to spend some time and money renovating her new home to get it just the way she wants — money that she's saved in the purchase.

Seller Cindy needs to evaluate her home objectively. If her home shows like a model and is in a desirable location, it doesn't really matter when Cindy sells. The GTA real estate market is strong enough that the top homes will sell for top dollar, regardless of whether they sell in May or December. There's a greater chance of Cindy's home being one of the best available at a time when competition is at its lowest. However, Cindy also needs to understand that it will take her perhaps a month or two longer to sell in the fall/winter, and that means an extra month or two of all the inconveniences that come with selling your home, like keeping it immaculate.

On the other hand, if Cindy's home is a typically average home she would be better of waiting until the spring. Make no mistake, buyers in the fall/winter months are looking for a deal. More often than not, those who sell during the cold months do so because there's something pushing them to, and not just because they're looking to make a change. Therefore, if Cindy's home is a fixer-upper, or shows a bad paintjob, or other defects, a fall/winter buyer is going to expect to be compensated for those shortcomings. In the summer, buyers know they can't afford to be so critical.

"Seller Cindy needs to evaluate her home objectively. If her home shows like a model and is in a desirable location, it doesn't really matter when Cindy sells. The GTA real estate market is strong enough that the top homes will sell for top dollar."

These "rules" for when to buy or sell are general rules of thumb. Nadia and Cindy would need to consider everything else pushing them to buy or sell as well. For example, if Nadia saw a job promotion in the coming year, then she may be better off waiting. If Cindy fell in love with a suitable home during the same winter season that her own home fetched less, it might make sense for her to go ahead. That's why the only rule that always applies is to make the move when you're ready to, and take all the time necessary, ask all the questions necessary, and do all the analysis necessary, to decide if you are in fact ready.

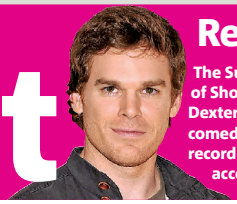
For any questions, email amitp@rogers.com.

Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

Kardashian-Odom wedding hitting TV

Khloe Kardashian and Lamar Odom's recent nuptials will air in November as a special hour of the reality family's show. It will be called Keeping Up with the Kardashians: The Wedding. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Entertainment



Record numbers

The Sunday-night season premieres of Showtime's serial-killer thriller Dexter (actor Michael C. Hall) and comedy Californication achieved record highs for both series, according to a Showtime. EW.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Memoirs of a pop superstar

Mariah Carey

Album: Memoirs of an Imperfect Angel
Label: Island/Universal
Rating: ●●●

MARIAH CAREY'S LATEST is so predictable that if you've heard her last two albums, you can imagine how it sounds. Produced almost entirely by Tricky Stewart and The-Dream, Memoirs is a glossy composition rife with Mariah's standard thematic touchstones and lyrical reference points. The singer overcomes relationship drama on It's A Wrap, makes some romantic reflections on I Want To Know What Love Is, and indulges in her usual saccharine R&B fluff on Candy Bling. The album is too heavy on the slow jams, and nothing matches the catty charm of her Eminem-baiting lead single, Obsessed.

Jason Richards/for Metro Canada

Alice In Chains

Album: Black Gives Way to Blue
Label: Virgin/EMI
Rating: ●●●

IT'S HARD TO believe that Alice in Chains could exist without Layne Staley, who died in 2002, but here they are. Somehow, the seminal Seattle grunge band sounds almost exactly like they did 14 years ago, the last time they released a record. Longtime Jerry Cantrell collaborator William DuVall has replaced Staley, but he's able to approximate the former lead singer's voice so well, it's hard to tell anything has changed. Sludgy guitars, thick harmonies and the same infectious sounds permeate the disc. It won't get you jonesing for flannel, but it's still a good trip back in time.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

UNIVERSAL MUSIC PHOTO

Memoirs of an Imperfect Angel is the twelfth studio album from pop superstar Mariah Carey.

Lights

Album: The Listening
Label: Universal
Rating: ●●●

WHEN THEY ANNOUNCED the winner of the new artist of the year award at the Junos in Calgary, the response was a collective "Who?" Even insiders had trouble trying to place the 22-year-old Timmins' native known as Lights (real name Valerie Poxleitner). And they can be forgiven. Lights, after all, hadn't even released a full album (it does help to have Q's Jian Ghomeshi as your manager). The Listening offers few surprises. At least four of the 13 tracks, including singles Saviour and Drive My Soul are already familiar to avid listeners of pop waifery. Lights has the benefit of a great production team led by Tawgs Salter. There's also an undeniable song-writing talent here that Lights' backers are hoping will appeal to electro-pop teens in the same way that Taylor Swift's music has captured the 4-H set.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Barbra Streisand

Album: Love is the Answer
Label: Columbia/Sony
Rating: ●●●

STREISAND POSSESSES ONE of the most iconic voices in pop music history. She's also one of the few artists who could get away with putting a picture of her dog on the back cover of an album called Love is the Answer. There's a huge comfort quality in hearing Streisand's voice on her first studio effort in four years. The fact that she's still singing with grace and style offers some stability in an otherwise truly nutty world. Here, Streisand teams up with Diana Krall as producer. Krall's gift for candlelight-and-wine softness is a smart match for Streisand's aging voice. Her voice is a theatrical one, however, that doesn't always fit with the 11 p.m.-on-the-couch pace Krall sets. She sings the Jacque Briel classic almost like a kid in elocution class. Still it's good to have Barbra's voice again.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Jann Arden

Album: Free
Label: Universal
Rating: ●●●½

NOBODY CAN DELIVER a punch line quite like Jann Arden. You don't have to go looking for it in her songs. They just creep up and bite you on the butt. Just like in the title track of the Alberta songwriter's new CD, Free. Just as you're about to get all mopey for some woman who's getting screwed around big time, the kicker comes — "I'm feeling better now that your stuff's out in the yard." That's what you call 'craft.' Arden's music always tugs at our emotions, but rarely allows us to get overly mired in misery. These are songs for a bi-polar world, for people willing to drive helter skelter into life, but able to hit the brakes before the bumper hits the brick wall. Not everyone's going to like them. Arden fans will, though.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

MusicReviews

music@metronews.ca

You Say Party! We Say Die!

Album: XXXX
Label: Paper Bag/Universal
Rating: ●●●

IT'S NOT EASY being an underpaid, overworked indie band — just ask You Say Party! We Say Die! who nearly broke up after its last tour. The group managed to pull it together, releasing the most coherent album of its career. It's not as frenetic as past work; the dance-punk sounds are still there, but they're toned down to make room for Becky Ninkovic's emotional lyrics. While the first three discs focused on hyperactive sounds, this one is rooted in the lyrics, which are mainly about love. It's actually a nice change of pace.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Listen to this week's reviewed music at metronews.ca/music

Criminal Minds spinoff in works

CBS is planning a spinoff from Criminal Minds, The Hollywood Reporter reveals. That show's executive producer/showrunner Ed Bernero and executive producer Chris Mundy are involved, with Mundy writing the script based on a story he devised with Bernero. EW.COM

Page rough 'n' rolling

Actress back to starring role in Whip It after break

NED EHRBAR
for Metro Canada

Ellen Page knows she's not the biggest girl in the world. In fact, she's downright diminutive. But her size didn't cause her to second-guess taking on the lead in Whip It, about a young woman discovering the joys of the rough and tumble sport of roller derby.

"I know I'm a tiny little thing," the Halifax native says. "I've always been a tiny thing, and I've always played sports, and it's never anything that made me hesitate. If anything, it made me more aggressive." And actually, she points out, her size is an advantage for being a jammer, the position in roller derby that has to fly past all the other players to score. (It's all explained in detail in the film.) "You can weave in and out of people," she says.

Page found it easy to connect to Bliss, the small-town Texas teen trying to break free of her pageant-loving mom's grip when she discovers the rough-and-tumble world of roller derby. "I'm playing someone who's found something that ignites a passionate fire within them, and that feeling is amazing," she explains. "I always played sports as a kid and loved it. I played soccer really competitively. And then I got paid to throw my body and my mind into something. I loved roller derby, so I was having a blast."

Whip It marks Page's first starring role since her Oscar-nominated turn in 2007's Juno. And there's a reason audiences haven't seen much of her. "After Juno, I decided to take a year off and went backpacking through eastern Europe with my friend and went camping in Newfoundland," Page says.

Whip It opens in theatres tomorrow

Luckily, her representatives understood. "If anything, they want me to work less than more," she insists. "They want quality over quantity. And if I do something I don't care about, I'm going to suck."

By that rationale, her work in Christopher Nolan's Inception will most certainly not suck, if Page's enthusiasm is any gauge.

"I'm having such a good time," she says of the super-secret project she's currently filming with Leonardo DiCaprio, Marion Cotillard and Joseph Gordon-Levitt. "I'm so happy that it's so secretive. We just constantly reflect on what we're doing, and we're all so excited to be a part of it."

But she saves her highest praise for Nolan himself. "I adore him. He's such an amazing filmmaker, and it's an honour to be in one of his films," she says of the Dark Knight director.

Halifax native Ellen Page stars in the roller derby dramedy Whip It. She is currently working in Christopher Nolan's Inception.

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Fonda, Tate sister back Polanski

ARREST AFTERMATH Actor Peter Fonda says international authorities had better things to focus on than catching Roman Polanski.

Fonda told a radio station yesterday that "we should have been celebrating the arrest of Osama bin Laden and not the arrest of Polanski."

Polanski

The 69-year-old star of Easy Rider was in Zurich for a film festival. Polanski was also scheduled to attend the festival but was arrested Saturday as he arrived at the Zurich airport.

The 76-year-old Polanski is being sought by U.S. authorities for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl.

Fonda says Polanski "is not responsible for killing anyone" and noted that the victim has asked for the case to be dismissed

Debra Tate, the sister of Polanski's murdered second wife, actress Sharon Tate, also backed the director, saying he is brilliant and a "good guy" and she doesn't think her former brother-in-law can get a fair trial in the United States.

Tate told NBC television yesterday that the U.S. justice system is broken.

Tate says Polanski did not forcibly have sex with the girl, calling it a "consensual matter."

Sharon Tate was murdered in Los Angeles in 1969 by followers of Charles Manson. She was eight months pregnant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUX TV aims to rock out, seriously

IAN NATHANSON
for Metro Canada

In their halcyon days, MTV and MuchMusic were revered as essential music television outlets that shaped pop culture through creative videos, as well as informing fans of emerging talent.

With both networks having shifted their focus to appeasing a younger demographic by airing more reality TV shows, many music fans and artists alike have cried out for a return to those glory days.

That's where AUX TV hopes to fill that void when the popular Internet TV channel launches on to the television airwaves Oct. 1, arguably the first network of its kind to make the transition from the web to television.

"Simply put, we're just trying to program a station for people who love music and music culture," Aux music director Jeff Rogers tells Metro. "But we're also about exposing groundbreaking music and groundbreaking talent, particularly homegrown artists.

From left, I.E., Alexisonfire's George Pettit, Metro columnist Alan Cross and Ingrid Johansson will be hosting shows on AUX TV.

The brainchild of founder/president Raja Khanna, who also serves as co-CEO of GlassBOX Television, AUX began as an online-only station last November, offering videos and interviews with a plethora of independent talent, some not even signed to a specific label. Khanna and Rogers, a former manager, label owner and A&R head for V2 Records (Moby, Stereophonics), also brainstormed on various original series geared to provide decent interaction between artists, music experts and music fans.

The most popular of these shows, Master Tracks, finds an unsigned band forced to record one of its songs in one whole day — within a professional studio setting.

• For more information on which TV channel to find AUX, visit aux.tv

Also on AUX

Other notable original series on AUX TV include:

- **Explore Music with Alan Cross:** Radio personality and Metro columnist offers his weekly insights in a panel format.
- **Strange Notes:** Alexisonfire front man George Pettit interviews emerging talent.

Quick shot of Starbucks
Starbucks Coffee launched its Starbucks VIA Ready Brew at all Canadian locations this week. Starbucks VIA is 100 per cent natural roasted arabica coffee in an instant form that, they say, tastes like a fresh-brewed cup of Starbucks coffee. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Urban Foodie

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Low ceilings, small menu, huge taste

STEPHANIE DICKISON
TorontoUrbanFoodie@gmail.com

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Rating: ●●●●
Dinner & drinks for 2: $80

I think eating in a hotel restaurant can be awfully sexy. Descending into the King Street Social Kitchen and Bar below street level — in the former Holiday Inn and now home of the swanky Hyatt Regency — certainly feels sexy.

The spacious dining room and lounge is decked out with creamy banquettes and glossy ebony paneled walls. The only drawback? A low, basement ceiling.

The shockingly small menu isn't impressive, but the food and service make up for it.

On the web

- Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/food

The Certified Angus New York Strip 10 oz. Steak ($29), plump and incredibly tender, is served with brilliantly grilled vegetables that include the oft-forgotten green onion, fennel and cipollini onions. Indian Lamb Korma with Rice ($27) is unrelentingly fiery and presented in two small stainless steel pots, with a crisp pappadum slipped in vertically between servings of yogurt and homemade chutney.

Even the Caesar Salad ($9) astonishes with a light, lemony dressing and stunning garlic crostini.

The service is outstanding, with our server Ronnie splitting our salad into two bowls and others attending to our every whim.

Certified Angus New York Strip 10 oz. Steak ($29)

There is nothing negative about the place except that it remains tucked away from the crowd it's meant for.

And the low ceiling.

Global Peasant blog online

- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.
- Yes, we can! Diane Thompson recently spent a day canning and crafting these two recipes: Mustard Pickles and Vanilla Pears. Visit metronews.ca/globalpeasant.

Dining out

DOGGONIT!
Burkie's Dog House, a new concession stand at Air Canada Centre is offering an upscale take on stadium fare. The Poutine Dog, layered with matchstick French fries, gravy and cheese curds and the Kobe Dog topped with wasabi mayonnaise and pickled ginger, are just two of the many options. Located in Air Canada Centre's new Atrium.

CROSS COUNTRY
All the way from the west coast, Joey Don Mills has opened up a brand new location at The Shops at Don Mills. Choose from Ahi Tuna Tacos, Lobster Grilled Cheese or something from the wok. Complimentary valet parking. Call 416-445-6391 or visit joeydonmills.com.

In brief

DELIZIA Come to La Bruschetta (1317 St Clair Ave. W.) for an Italian cooking class tailored for you and your tastebuds! $75, includes a glass of wine. 416-656-8622 or labru.ca for details.

GAME ON Show how much of a gourmand you are with Foodie Fight, a trivia game for "serious food lovers." Wine and cheese not included. Available at chroniclebooks.com

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[1] Simply use the Curve™ MasterCard® between September 15, 2009 and November 20, 2009 to be automatically entered for a chance to win. You will automatically receive 10 entries into the contest every time you use your card to make an eligible purchase between September 15, 2009 and November 20, 2009. You will receive 10 entries for a video submission with the possibility of 150 more entries if your video is selected for uploading and voted for. Canadian Tire Bank reserves the right not to accept for submission any videos it considers inappropriate or not in compliance with contest guidelines. No purchase necessary. Visit thecurvecard.com/toronto for details on no purchase necessary entry. There is one (1) grand prize Grammy Prize package (CAD$15,000 estimated value) to be awarded to the winner of the contest draw, and one (1) CAD$500 credit to the Curve MasterCard, or a Canadian Tire gift card loaded with CAD$500, will be awarded to the person who receives the highest number of votes for their video submission. Full contest details available online at thecurvecard.com/toronto. Contest closes November 20, 2009. Skill testing question required. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received.
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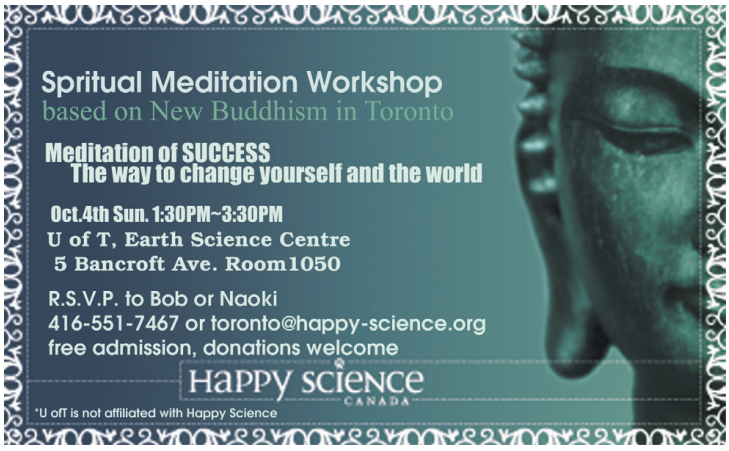

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'Paris was magnificent'

Joel Charlebois, the winner of Metro's Global Photo Challenge 2008, talks about his prize — a trip to Paris

ROMINA McGUINNESS
Metro World News

How was the trip to Paris, was it fruitful in terms of your photography?

Paris was magnificent, through and through. The winding streets, the little shops, café culture and fashionable people galore; it was a marvellous experience. And the Eiffel Tower, I never expected to be so moved by the sight of it. One week in Paris allowed me to see Paris, the celebrity.

How has the competition changed your life?

While I hope to never be in the same place as I was the day before, this competition brought me many great places: Paris, of course, but also Barcelona and Valencia on the same trip; a gala event at the CN Tower in Toronto; midnight guerrilla poster campaigns.

I'm so grateful for the opportunities the Metro Photo Challenge has offered me, challenging me to believe in myself and to reach just a little bit higher. It has been a very fulfilling experience. The question now is, what next?

Do you think you will actively pursue your photography or keep it as a passion?

Actually, I have been making a greater effort to moonlight in photography, and work has also found its way to me. One of my photos is now illustrating the cover of a hardcover novel — The Way Home by George Pelecanos. Incredibly, that photo was taken on the same foggy night as Midnight Tram to Humber, no more than 30 minutes later.

That said, I am not at a point where I want my photography to be responsible for putting food on my plate. I realize I have much to learn, and I'm willing to take the time it requires to prepare for a shift in my career focus.

If the opportunity came my way, the plunge is not something that I would ever rule out absolutely. But for the moment, my passion for photography keeps me very satisfied.

Photo challenge

JOEL CHARLEBOIS

Joel Charlebois' winning photo, Midnight Tram to Humber.

Joel Charlebois was the second winner of Metro Photo Challenge, with this photo, Midnight Tram to Humber. Now the competition starts again.

The competition
Enter your photos on the themes People, Places and Climate Change.

The prizes
Win one of three trips for two to any city where Metro is published. Global winners' photos will be published in Metros in 100 cities.

The dates
Metro Global Photo Challenge 2009 starts Sept. 28 and is open until Oct. 20.

The website
metrophotochallenge.com

Third time's a charm for LeBlanc?
Friends alum Matt LeBlanc is returning to TV in Episodes, new comedy about a husband-wife producing team whose witty hit comedy on British TV is turned into a dumbed-down American sitcom. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mix of Six

Metro taps into today's best entertainment and event picks

FUNDRAISER
The sixth annual Boot It UP!, a fashion and arts fundraising bash where Blundstone boots are decorated by Toronto-based ad agencies, artists and celebrities, takes place at The Roundhouse, Steam Whistle Brewery at 7 p.m. $40 and $50. sketch.ca/bootitup09.

READING
Arrested Development's David Cross will be signing copies of, and reading from, his book I Drink for a Reason at Indigo Books & Music, Eaton Centre, at 7 p.m.

PARTY
It's a Pink Bedroom Party (Princess Margaret Hospital/SickKids) to end cancer with a lingerie fashion show, DJ dancing, and live and silent auctions at the Berkeley Church, 315 Queen St. E., tonight. $65 and $55. pinkbed roomparty.com.

FUNDRAISER
Men will be walking in high-heeled shoes in the business district and Nathan Phillips Square today as part of a fundraiser to help fight violence against women. Noon to 2 p.m. walkamile toronto.org.

FALL HOME SHOW
The Fall Home Show, featuring celebrity guests, workshops, do-it-yourself ideas, decor and more, starts today at Better Living Centre, Exhibition Place. fallhomeshow.com.

MUSIC
American singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens plays a sold-out show tonight at Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St. W., 10:30 p.m.

Kenya's**Style**

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

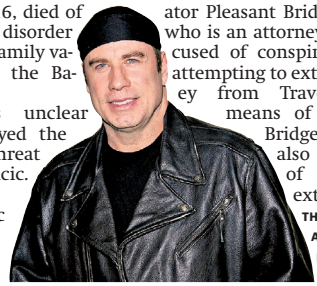
Travolta testifies on alleged extortion

Actor John Travolta testified in a Bahamian extortion trial yesterday that he was told unless he paid $25 million US, stories would be sold to the media implying his son's death was intentional and he was to blame.

Travolta said he was first told by longtime friend and employee Ronald Zupancic of the alleged threat and demand for money on Jan. 16., two weeks after Travolta's son Jett, 16, died of a seizure disorder during a family vacation in the Bahamas.

It was unclear who relayed the alleged threat to Zupancic.

Former paramedic Tarino Lightbourne and former Bahamian Senator Pleasant Bridgewater, who is an attorney, are accused of conspiracy and attempting to extort money from Travolta by means of threats. Bridgewater is also accused of abetting extortion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Entertainment in brief

THE VIEW ABC says Elisabeth Hasselbeck will be back on The View on Oct. 19. Hasselbeck has been off the daytime talk show since Aug. 7, two days before she gave birth to her third child, Isaiah Timothy. She's married to former NFL player Tim Hasselbeck. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV Babies!
"Our babies and kids are busy!" says Ann Love at The Baby Face Agency. "In ads, movies, and modelling, some earned $30,000."
"We need cute babies and toddlers and boys and girls up to 16!"
Phones are open now for parents to list babies and kids. Dial (416)
925-6140

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 10/1/09	265	353	2	TVO	Super Structures (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		The Jury (N)		Mona Lisa Curse		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Survivor: Samoa (N)		The Office (N)	SNL Update	90210 "The Porn King"		News Final
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere Il	Omni News:	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	(7:15) NHL Hockey Montreal Canadiens at Toronto Maple Leafs.					National	NHL Hockey: Canucks at Flames		
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		30 Rock	Parks-Recreat	30 Rock	Community (N)	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	The Vampire Diaries (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) The Mentalist		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*The Taking of Pelham One, Two, Three* (1974, Suspense)				*King Kong vs. Godzilla* ★ (1963, Science Fiction), James Yagi				News at 11 (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Grande bataille	Volt "Bière"	*Le Corbeau* ★★★ (1943, Suspense)			Villages	Clipperton
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Office	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	TBA
	213	326	15	SUN	The Insider (N)	George Lopez	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	Supernatural "The End"		The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Survivor: Samoa (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	SNL Update	Parks-Recreat	The Office (N)	Community (N)	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	FlashForward (HDTV) (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	TMZ (N)	Hollywood	FlashForward (HDTV) (N)		Fringe "Fracture" (N)		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Fringe "Fracture" (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	My Hero	The National Parks: America's Best Idea (N) (DVS)				MI-5 "The Special"		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	The Vampire Diaries (N)		Supernatural "The End"		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News	Frasier	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show (N)		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Vamp. Diaries
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Marketplace	CBC News: Tonight (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		Put It on-Map	The NEW Age of Wal-Mart			Biography "Enzo Ferrari"		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Cleveland Indians at Boston Red Sox. From Fenway Park in Boston.						Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Interruption	2009 World Series of Poker		2009 World Series of Poker		SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV) (N)		Jacked!	Jacked!	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25	YTV	Drake & Josh	Family Biz (N)	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline
	554	544	45	TEL	Stoked (N)	Total Drama	Majority Rules	6TEEN (N)	Futurama	King of the Hill	*Blade* ★★ (1998, Horror) Wesley Snipes.		
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Old Christine	Friends	Friends	Grocery Bag	Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	Divine Design	Love It-List It
	570	580	29	MM	One Tree Hill		You Can Dance		Dance	My Date With...	Love Court	Instant Star	One Tree Hill
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds "Doubt"		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Crime 360
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Al di Sopra Della Legge				George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out	Pink Floyd: Dark Side		The Daily Fix
	575	583	38	CMT	Karaoke Star "Halifax" (N)		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Karaoke Star
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Da Vinci's City Hall		The Best Years (DVS)		Saving Grace (N)		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	Storytellers	Camera	Bathroom Divas-Opera Star		*Whale Music* ★★ (1994, Romance) Maury Chaykin.				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		X-Weighted "Chris"		X-Weighted		X-Weighted "Jocelyn"		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Ice Road Truckers		Ancient Discoveries		Underworld Histories		Life After People		Blow Down
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Hot Box	Jon Dore Show	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes Inspection		Family Reno	Disaster DIY	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes Ins.
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*Shattered* (2007, Suspense), Gerard Butler		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*The Meteor Man* ★★ (1993, Fantasy) Robert Townsend.				Frankie-Neffe	Frankie-Neffe	W. Williams
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval		Eureka (N)		InnerSpace (N)
	581	566	52	MTV	Over the Bolts	After	Parent Control	Cribs	Fantasy Fact.	Beatdown	Nitro Circus (N)	Pranked	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	TV Made, Do It	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	Road Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Perfection	Perfection	Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Family
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		On the Buses	'Allo, 'Allo!	*The King and I* ★★★ (1956, Musical) Deborah Kerr, Yul Brynner. Premiere.				
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Waybuloo	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Babar	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		Dieu Merci (N) (SC)		Juste pour rire hors série		TVA nouvelles	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Missing "Paper Anniversary"		The Closer "Homewrecker"			Passion	Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	(6:45) *Messages Deleted* (2009)			Nurse Jackie	*Spring Breakdown* (2009, Comedy)			Penn & Teller	Penn & Teller
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:15) *Ride Beyond Vengeance* ★★ (1966, Western)				*Top Gun* ★★★ (1986, Adventure) Tom Cruise.				*Prom Night*

critics'corner

Family Renovation
Some of us don't even like having kids underfoot when we're making sandwiches. Imagine trying to do a huge home renovation project — we're talking building three new floors — with five children around. This new series follows Marie-France LeBlanc, her husband and five kids — all under 10 years old — through their home's massive makeover, during which, at her insistence, they all continue to live in the house. 9 PM on H&G

Private Practice
The sudsy Southern California saga of Dr. Addison Montgomery (Kate Walsh) continues in a second season that opens with Naomi (Audra McDonald) apparently poised to leave the practice and Sam (Taye Diggs) determined to win her back. Cooper (Paul Adelstein), meanwhile, may finally be free to take things to a new level with Violet (Amy Brenneman), as long as Pete (Tim Daly) doesn't strong-arm him out of the way. Chris Lowell also stars in "A Death in the Family." 10:01 PM on ABC ACH-B

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Jean, Timberland team up

Wyclef Jean and The Timberland Co. are teaming up to sell eco-friendly footwear and support reforestation of the singer's native Haiti. Jean collaborated with the company on a 16-boot collection going on sale in November. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pink rocks in her Funhouse

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

When crunching numbers, alternative pop singer Pink (Alecia Beth Moore) is third rung on the tier of best-selling female solo artists behind the likes of Tina Turner and Britney Spears.

However, as we all know, numbers mean squat as this stop on her current Funhouse Tour in support of her fifth album bearing the same name quickly certified. Not only does the 30-year-old — who derived her stage name from a character in Quentin Tarantino's Reservoir Dogs — have enough talent to outshine her immediate successor Spears with a bold, vivacious voice and actually engaging stage presence, but her songs are just plain better.

Couple that with her mission of creating substantial, enduring music instead of sensational, embarrassing media and she won't be in that back seat for long.

Kicking in with an abridged version of AC/DC's Highway To Hell and tearing through tracks from her ephemeral legacy, Pink's delivery of Bad Influence, Just Like A Pill and more was engaging, spirited, dynamic and even a touch randy, most notably with her sultry version of The Divynyls' I Touch Myself delivered on a red velvet chaise lounge complete with ghostly hands emerging to fondle.

Overall, given her bold competition, Pink easily proved that with her inherent vocal ability, enthusiasm and impressive array of decidedly rockin' tunes, her control of the evening was supreme. With coming times, she will only solidify her command as an accomplished singer and performer, mindless radio fluff such as encore Get This Party Started notwithstanding.

Pink
Venue: Air Canada Centre
Rating: ●●●●●

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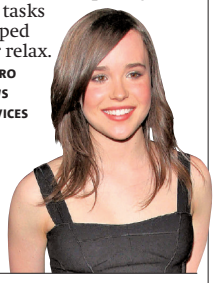
Steady Rain's steady numbers
Hugh Jackman and Daniel Craig are setting box office records with their Broadway play, A Steady Rain. Last week, the show scored the highest weekly ticket sales of a non-musical play, earning just under $1.17 million US. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Well, if the acting doesn't work out...

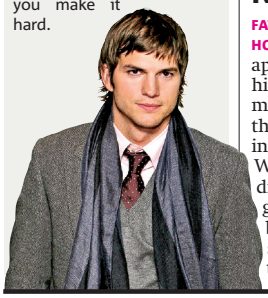
SHOVEL IT Ellen Page loves shovelling goat manure, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 22-year-old actress took time away from the spotlight after appearing in 2007 movie Juno to deal with her newfound fame, and found completing manual tasks helped her relax.
METRO NEWS SERVICES



Celebrity tweets

Neil Gaiman deals with the harvest, Ashton Kutcher has a simple philosophy on life and Sarah Silverman has a troubled relationship with her Twitter followers

- @neilhimself First frost outside. All the mad bringing-in-tomatoes efforts from yesterday were actually sensible. How odd.
- @aplusk everyone loves puppies
- @SarahKSilverman Goodnight strangers. I am trying to still believe in love, but you make it hard.



Still together ... for now?

TROUBLE IN PARADISE? Despite reports that Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel's two-year relationship is over, sources tell People the couple has not broken up.

In fact, on Monday night they were photographed together while on a getaway in Northern California.

"They're together," says an insider. "They're not breaking up. Any time they spend time apart it's because they're working."

Over the summer, Timberlake, 28, was in Europe promoting his Givenchy fragrance and William Rast clothing line, while Biel, 27, remained in Los Angeles where she starred in Guys and Dolls.

But in January, the actress plans to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro (as part of the star-studded Summit on the Summit expedition to raise awareness for clean water), and Timberlake, says sources, is in talks to join her.

Whether the couple will still be together in three months is another story.

According to a second source, they are going through a rough-patch.

"Things have been a bit up in the air recently," says the source.

"They've been spending more time apart — more time with each of their friends, and they've been reevaluating (their relationship)."

As for rumours that Timberlake has been getting close to Rihanna, a source close to her insists that the relationship is purely professional: "They're working together. They were in the studio for her album and they'll be going back in again."
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pop star, boy toy in on NYC scene

LIVIN IT UP Madonna has been hitting the town in New York with boyfriend Jesus Luz, popping up at an East Village cocktail bar with Jessica Seinfeld and a Meatpacking District restaurant with the director of her Truth or Dare documentary, according to Page Six. Madonna was then seen escorting Luz into a downtown gay club, where sources say she was "hoping to get him some DJ experience in her old 'hood."
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cruz mum on lady lip-locks

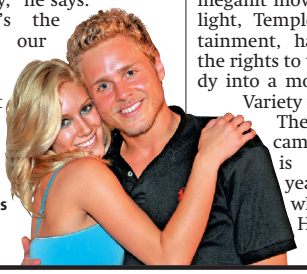
SHE DOESN'T KISS AND TELL Penelope Cruz refuses to rank her onscreen female kissers.

The star has previously locked lips with Charlize Theron in 2004's Head in the Clouds and Scarlett Johansson in last year's Vicky Cristina Barcelona.

When asked by Vanity Fair which was better, the actress demurs: "No matter how I answer that I will be in trouble," she says. "Both were pretty beautiful partners."
METRO NEWS SERVICES

No sex equals no babies for Pratt

FATHERHOOD NOT ON THE HORIZON Spencer Pratt is apparently so worried that his wife, Heidi Montag, might get pregnant that they've cut back on being intimate, he admits to PopWrap. "I'm not even kidding, my wife — OK, I'm gonna get crass here — but we're barely having sex because I'm scared that she's going to have a baby," he says. "That's the level our marriage is at right now."
METRO NEWS SERVICES



Conrad's L.A. Candy coming to a silver screen near you

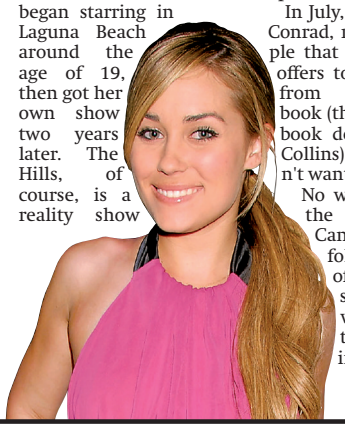
IT'S A REALITY LIFE Call it a case of art imitating life imitating art imitating life, ad infinitum, people.com suggests. That's right: Lauren Conrad's novel about a regular gal whose life changes when she stars on a reality show is going to be made into a movie.

The producers of the megahit movie series Twilight, Temple Hill Entertainment, have acquired the rights to turn L.A. Candy into a motion picture, Variety reports.

The novel, which came out in June, is about a 19-year-old girl who moves to Hollywood and ends up as the lead in a reality series. In other words, it's basically inspired by the real-life adventures of Conrad, who began starring in Laguna Beach around the age of 19, then got her own show two years later. The Hills, of course, is a reality show about a group of attractive Los Angeles young adults who go about their lives as if they're living a soap opera.

In July, a source close to Conrad, now 23, told People that she was fielding offers to produce a film from her bestselling book (the first in a three-book deal with HarperCollins) but that she didn't want to act in it.

No word yet whether the presumed L.A. Candy sequel will follow the travails of a former reality-show starlet who writes a novel that gets turned into a movie.
METRO NEWS SERVICES



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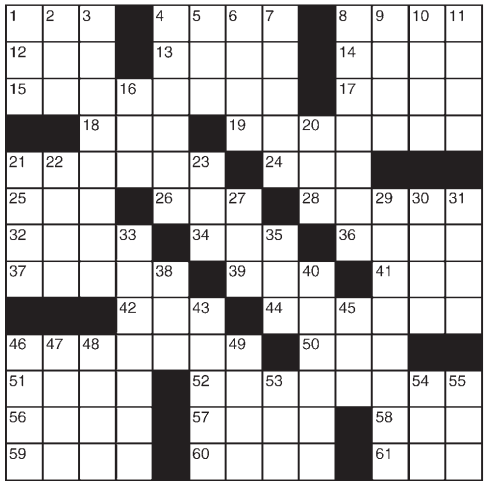

ACROSS

1 Lobbyists' grp.
4 Essence
8 Rich soil
12 Under the weather
13 Sunscreen ingredient
14 Between jobs
15 Makeshift stain remover
17 Rind
18 — -relief
19 Not naked
21 No, for one
24 Have a go at
25 Eggs
26 Aye undoer
28 Treetop decoration, often
32 Dweeb
34 Trump casino hotel, for short
36 Geologist's sample
37 Bad lighting
39 Bankroll
41 Whopper
42 Scull need
44 Short jacket
46 A water sign
50 Fraud-monitoring org.
51 Injury
52 Chorus of a sort
56 Vicinity
57 Verve
58 Work with
59 Cow's hurdle?
60 Fat
61 Satchel

DOWN

1 Snapshot
2 Every crumb
3 Where riders lounge
4 Relay
5 U.N. workers' grp.
6 Lincoln in-law
7 Soul mate?
8 Emulate Milli Vanilli
9 Praiseful pieces
10 Sheltered
11 Pinochle ploy
16 Cudgel
20 Detergent brand
21 Lady of Spain
22 Finished
23 Scoundrel
27 Deviate off course
29 Iron, e.g.
30 One of HOMES
31 Lascivious look
33 Entry-level job?
35 Discord
38 Siesta
40 Protect
43 Bright star of Orion
45 List-ending abbr.
46 Counterfeit
47 "— nome" (aria from "Rigoletto")
48 Sandwich treat
49 Stewpot
53 Corn spike
54 NAFTA signatory
55 Plead

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

5				6	8	9		7
2	7						5	
				5	1		3	
	3					2		
			1		7			
		4					7	
	6		3	2				
	4						9	3
3		7	6	1				4

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

D	I	M		S	E	A	R		B	A	D	E		
A	N	A		U	R	G	E		A	L	O	E		
I	C	Y		B	R	E	A	K	N	E	C	K		
S	H	O	A	L			P	E	T					
			R	I	C	A		N	E	W	E	L		
B	O	O	K	M	A	R	K		R	A	C	E		
A	L	P		E	R	I	E	S		C	H	A		
S	L	A	W		B	A	N	K	B	O	O	K		
S	A	L	A	D		S	O	U	R					
			L	I	E			L	A	T	E	X		
B	R	O	K	E	B	A	C	K		O	R	R		
R	E	D	O		B	L	U	E		A	G	A		
O	V	E	N		S	L	E	D		T	O	Y		

8	5	3	4	1	2	6	9	7
2	9	4	8	6	7	1	5	3
7	6	1	3	9	5	8	4	2
9	2	5	7	4	1	3	6	8
4	8	7	5	3	6	9	2	1
1	3	6	2	8	9	4	7	5
3	4	2	9	5	8	7	1	6
6	7	8	1	2	4	5	3	9
5	1	9	6	7	3	2	8	4

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Stephanie's Easy Chicken

Submitted by Stephanie Lozon, Annan, Ont.

INGREDIENTS:

6 chicken breasts
6 slices of shaved prosciutto
1-1/2 cups of dry white wine
1 cup of cherry tomatoes or chopped tomatoes
6 fresh basil leaves or 1 tsp dried crushed basil
1 glove of garlic minced
6 slices of Swiss cheese
Salt and pepper to taste

METHOD:

1. Pre-heat oven to 375 C.
2. Place chicken in baking dish. Wrap each piece of chicken with prosciutto; add chopped tomatoes or cherry tomatoes sliced in half.
3. Add torn basil, garlic and salt and pepper over dish. Pour wine over dish to make sure chicken remains moist.
4. Put in oven. Sit back and enjoy a glass of wine while it cooks for 30 minutes.
5. Then add the Swiss cheese over chicken and cook for another 10 minutes or until melted.

SERVES 6
PREP TIME: 5 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 40 MINUTES

Weekly winners

• Exclusive contest for Metro readers! Visit 20minutesupperclub.com/metro and be entered to win a $50 President's Choice gift certificate to stock your cupboards with delicious PC products. For product information and store locations, visit PC.ca. A weekly winner will be drawn from now until the end of October.

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You're in an argumentative mood and once you start challenging other people's views you will find it hard to stop.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
The problems you face may be tough but you are tougher and before the day is over even your enemies will respect you for your tenacity and self-belief.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Mercury, your ruler, aspects Mars, planet of ego, which may be good news or bad news depending on how you handle the energies it releases.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
It may be the start of a new month but it is an old problem that will cause you most grief. Fortunately, Mars gives you a touch of ruthlessness.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
It's not like you to be so defensive but for some strange reason you seem to think you need to make excuses for your behaviour.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Not everyone shares your way of looking at the world, and you need to get your head around that fact.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Someone in a position of authority will put you to the test today and you will come through with flying colours.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Try to avoid being too aggressive today, especially if you are the kind of Scorpio who knows how to use words as a weapon.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Certain changes need to be made and you've made it your business to force them through whether or not others agree with you.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Someone with a strong personality will give you a hard time today, but you are not the sort to take it without giving as good as you get.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Are you doing too much? If you are your body will send you some obvious warning signals today and if you are wise you will act on what they tell you.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You will be incredibly assertive today and anyone who thinks you will accept a lesser role in whatever drama is unfolding is sure to be disappointed.

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OCT. 1, 1910: Los Angeles Times bombing: A large bomb destroys the Los Angeles Times building in downtown Los Angeles, killing 21.
OCT. 1, 1918: First World War: Arab forces under T. E. Lawrence (a.k.a. Lawrence of Arabia) capture Damascus.
OCT. 1, 1971: Walt Disney World opens near Orlando, Fla.
OCT. 1, 1975: Thrilla in Manila: Muhammad Ali defeats Joe Frazier in a boxing match in Manila, Philippines.
OCT. 1, 1982: Sony launches the first consumer compact disc player (model CDP-101).

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GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM

"The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trade marks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp., and used under licence. ♦Last year's starting price is the lease/finance starting price as of December 2008 for a 2009 Elantra L/2009 Tucson L/2009 Santa Fe 2.7L GL. Prices for models shown: 2009 Elantra Limited of $20,295/2009 Tucson Limited of $27,495/2009 Santa Fe Limited of $32,445. ¥Prices calculated after deducting price adjustments off the lease/finance starting prices. Price adjustments of $1,000/$3,500 available on a 2009 Elantra Touring L 5-speed/2010 Sonata GL 5-speed. Prices for models shown (after deducting price adjustments): 2009 Elantra Touring GL with Sport Package is $20,195/2010 Sonata Limited model shown is $30,499. ♦♦Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495 for 2009 Elantra/$1,495 for 2009 Elantra Touring/$1,765 for 2009 Tucson/$1,765 for 2009 Santa Fe/$1,565 for 2010 Sonata. Registration, insurance, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ◊Purchase financing available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services on 2009 Elantra/2009 Elantra Touring/2009 Tucson/2009 Santa Fe/2010 Sonata models with a finance rate of 0% for 36 months (2009 Elantra/2009 Elantra Touring) or 48 months (2009 Tucson/2009 Santa Fe/2010 Sonata). Monthly payment is $27.78 per $1,000 financed. Down payment may be required. Not all buyers will qualify. Offer may be changed or withdrawn at any time without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ΩThe Hyundai Elantra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact cars in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2009 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 80,930 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 245 models and measures owners after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2009. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. †Fuel economy comparison based on combined fuel consumption rating for the 2010 Sonata GL auto (8.0ZL/100km) and 2009 EnerGuide combined fuel consumption ratings for the full size vehicle class. Fuel Consumption for 2010 Sonata GL automatic (HWY 6.2L/100km, 46 mpg; CITY 9.5L/100km, 30 mpg) is based on manufacturer testing. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on driving conditions and the condition of certain vehicle accessories. ‡You may qualify for an additional incentive ($300 in B.C.) if you turn in your 1995 model year and older vehicle and participate in the national Retire Your Ride program, funded by the Government of Canada. To qualify, your vehicle must be 1995 model year or older, in running condition and fully registered and insured in the participants province for the last 6 consecutive months (12 months in B.C.). Upon confirmation of eligibility for the Retire Your Ride program, Hyundai Auto Canada will provide an additional $300 Cash that must be applied to the purchase of a new Hyundai vehicle in the amount of $500 - 2009 Accent / $500 - 2009 Elantra sedan / $500 - 2009 Elantra Touring / $500 - 2009 Sonata / $1,000 - 2009 Tucson / $1,000 - 2009 Santa Fe / $1,000 - 2010 Sonata. Cash has no cash value. Limit one per customer. Offer may be changed or withdrawn at any time without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Not all buyers will qualify. Offer may be changed or withdrawn at any time without notice. See dealer for complete details. ΔSee your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. †Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions for any trade-in value for your old vehicle. For more information about the Retire Your Ride Program visit www.retireyourride.ca. Some conditions apply, see dealer for details.